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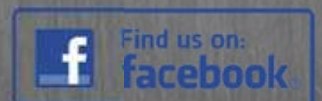


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Send editorial queries and comments to  
[personaldefenseworld@harris-pub.com](mailto:personaldefenseworld@harris-pub.com)

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# IT HAPPENED TO ME

## TAKING COMMAND AGAINST TERROR

**Naval commander praised for  
bravery during Chattanooga attack.**

It was a nightmare come true last summer for a naval commander in Tennessee when a gunman crashed a car through his base's front gate and started shooting. Mohammad Youssef Abdulazeez used a rifle in the July 16, 2015, attack on the Navy Operational Support Center at Chattanooga, according to an FBI news release.

The FBI also noted, "A service member fired at Abdulazeez from within the facility as he approached the building." Later, it was reported that the center's commander, Lieutenant Commander Timothy White, fired his personal handgun to repel the attack. A Marine also shot back at Abdulazeez, using a personal handgun according to various news reports.

The attacker, however, still got into the building and shot at "those he encountered," the FBI said. He killed four Marines and a sailor before Chattanooga police fatally shot him. The commander declined interviews, but "a source with knowledge of White's thinking" gave an explanation to a military newspaper. That person said White worried about recent

calls by the Islamic State to attack troops at home, so he brought his handgun to work, according to a *Navy Times* report by David Larter.

In another report, one of the surviving Marines told Larter that White's actions saved lives that day. "It allowed us a little time," Sergeant Jeff Cantu said. "As soon as that took place, Marines took that time to evacuate as best they could."

Other news reports stated that White could have faced criminal charges because non-security military personnel can't carry weapons while on duty unless they're in a combat zone. But in August, Larter and others reported that unnamed officials said criminal charges against White were "highly unlikely." Officials also pledged to boost security for troops stateside.

A public outcry was already underway. Former Congressman Allen West, a Republican, and Democrat Jim Webb, a former secretary of the Navy and senator, said White deserved a medal. And actor James Woods tweeted, "Yes, Timothy White should be 'punished.' Make him an Admiral."

BIG STOCK PHOTOS

## PROTECTING THE FLOCK Parishioner under attack rescued by church employee.

A church in Boulder, Colorado, was no sanctuary last July for a woman attacked in the parking lot by her husband—that is, until a man with a concealed-carry license intervened.

The rescue happened at the Sacred

Heart of Jesus at 14th Street and Mapleton Avenue. Police told the *Boulder Daily Camera* that the CCL holder was a church employee. He knew the woman, a regular attendee, who suffered a stab wound to the abdomen. According



to police, as the husband proceeded to put the knife to the woman's neck, the church employee drew his weapon and commanded the husband to stop. The man fled, but police subdued him nearby with a Taser, a police spokeswoman said. She added that the woman survived the stab wound.

Boulder County Jail records showed that the victim's husband, 47-year-old Heriberto Haro-Luna, was still behind bars as of September 2015, facing multiple charges including attempted first-degree murder.



## **HOLDUP HALTED**

### **Pistol-packing pizza man stops would-be teen robber.**

A teenager tried to rob a pizza delivery man at gunpoint last summer in Norfolk, Virginia, but the driver also had a gun. That's how the 15-year-old robbery suspect landed in the hospital, police said in a news release.

The incident happened at about 9:30 p.m. in the 900 block of Galt Street in northeast Norfolk. The robber brandished a gun and demanded money, but the pizza man shot him, police said. Doctors treated the teen for "life-threatening injuries," but police said he was "expected to recover." Meanwhile, police added, "Investigators have charged the 15 year old with one count of robbery, and one count of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony." **CH**



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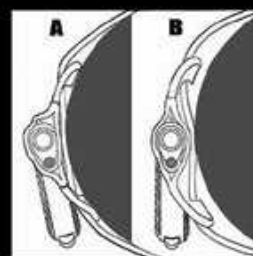
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# ROAD RULES

Six real cases remind us why it's smart to stay legally armed and alert after pulling out of your driveway. **BY** MASSAD AYOOB



**THE UNITED STATES** is the world's most motorized nation, and we Americans spend much of our time in our cars. History shows that we may have to use deadly force to defend ourselves, and others, in that environment.

**Case One:** In June of 2013, an off-duty African-American law enforcement officer from New Jersey named Joe Walker was driving in Maryland with his wife and children when he accidentally crossed into another lane. This angered a couple of Caucasian men in a vehicle in that lane, who then maneuvered as if to run the Walker family vehicle off the road. Walker pulled safely to the roadside. The other men stopped and approached him aggressively, angrily snarling racial slurs at the off-duty officer.

Fearing for his family's lives, Walker identified himself as a law enforcement officer, drawing his badge with one hand and his off-duty gun with the other. When one of the men came at him, Walker stopped him with three shots. The wounds proved fatal.

Charged with murder, Walker was tried in the summer of 2014 and acquitted on all counts. The jury had realized that the defendant's actions were justifiable: Walker was facing a disparity of force, and if the assailant and his friend gained control of Walker's gun, then the officer's wife and kids would be in a particularly deadly situation.

## ROAD HAZARDS

In April of 2015 in Smyrna, Georgia, a "carjacking" took place that we'll call **Case Two**. The scene was a car wash.



ALEX LANDEEN PHOTO

**"The 47-year-old Good Guy drew his handgun and returned fire with six shots. Several of his bullets struck the gunman..."**

The woman who owned the vehicle tried desperately to stop the man, finally leaping onto the hood of her car as he drove it away. The cruel thief responded by accelerating the vehicle.

A Smyrna city employee who happened to be at the car wash on his own time also happened to be licensed to carry a concealed handgun. Realizing

that the woman was now in danger of being thrown from the hood of the speeding car and killed or horribly crippled, he drew his semi-automatic pistol from under his polo shirt and stopped the deadly carjacker the only way he could: He shot him.

Wounded in the shoulder and upper torso, the carjacker slowed, stopped and



tumbled out of the car. The armed citizen held him at gunpoint until police arrived. The wounded thug was arrested, the female victim escaped serious injury and, far from being in trouble, the armed Good Samaritan was publicly hailed as a hero for saving the woman.

**Case Three** was recorded in Tucson, Arizona, some years ago. A madman murdered his father and stole his slain dad's car. By the next day, perhaps fearing the body had been discovered and police might be looking for the vehicle, he decided he needed new wheels and carjacked a woman on the street.

Passing by in an unmarked unit, Dr. Richard Carmona, a police surgeon, saw what was happening. He drew his department-issued sidearm and identified himself. The gunman opened fire, and the physician returned fire. When it was over, the doc had a crease in the scalp from a 9mm bullet, the woman had been safely rescued and the murderer lay dead in the street. Dr. Richard Carmona would later serve a term as surgeon general of the United States.

**Case Four** takes us back to the year 1959. A thief apparently bent on robbery and grand theft auto picked the wrong victim when he jumped into a parked car in New York City and pulled a gun on the occupant. That occupant was off-duty NYPD Officer Mario Biaggi, who promptly drew his .38 and emptied it into the malefactor. Biaggi was wounded in the shootout but healed uneventfully; the armed robber was killed.

Ironically, Biaggi went on to become a celebrated politician notorious for his anti-gun views, until he was convicted of corruption charges and sent to prison in disgrace that lasted until his death in 2015. It was hard to understand how a man whose life was saved by a concealed defensive handgun would want to deny other good people the right to the same self-protection.

## EDC BACKUP

Professional drivers often spend more time at the wheel than they do in their own living rooms or beds. It is not surprising to find them in that work environment when they need guns to defend themselves and others.

In April of 2015, **Case Five** unfolded at Logan Square on North Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago. A criminal with a gun wildly opened fire into a crowd. One of the horrified witnesses was an Uber driver who had taken advantage of the fact that the state of Illinois had finally established "shall issue" concealed-carry permitting. The 47-year-old Good Guy drew his



ALFREDO RICO PHOTO


**Defensive driving takes on a new meaning to those civilians who make the decision to legally arm themselves on the road.**

handgun and returned fire with six shots. Several of his bullets struck the gunman, seriously wounding him and ending the terrible danger. Authorities soon announced that the defensive-minded Uber driver would not be charged with anything. It was generally recognized that his quick, decisive action had probably prevented a mass murder.

Shortly thereafter, Uber announced that its vehicles would be "gun-free zones" and Uber drivers would not be allowed to be armed. It is hard to imagine a more stark example of a 180-degree spinout from reason and common sense in regards to self-defense.

Speaking of lives saved by "shall issue" carry laws, long before the Uber incident, **Case Six** took place in Miami. Florida had just passed "shall issue" in the late 1980s when Mark Yuhr became the first person whose life was saved by the legislation. A taxi driver, he picked up a fare who turned out to be a Cuban criminal who had come to the U.S. via the infamous Mariel boatlift. Soon, the "Marielito" pulled a stolen 9mm pistol on Yuhr and demanded all his money. Stopped at the roadside, Yuhr willingly turned over the cash, but the gunman became angry that it wasn't enough and viciously ordered him out of the car.

As he stepped out, Yuhr, certain that he was about to be executed, went for his own cocked-and-locked 1911. Moments later, the would-be murderer was dead, hit by all seven of Yuhr's 185-grain bullets before he could trigger a single shot from his stolen gun.

Yuhr was let go by the taxi company after the shooting, but he went on to a successful career in private security. As with all the above cases except Walker, who was acquitted at trial, Yuhr suffered no legal repercussions. Clearly, self-defense in and around one's vehicles is a scenario that warrants thoughtful preparation beforehand. 

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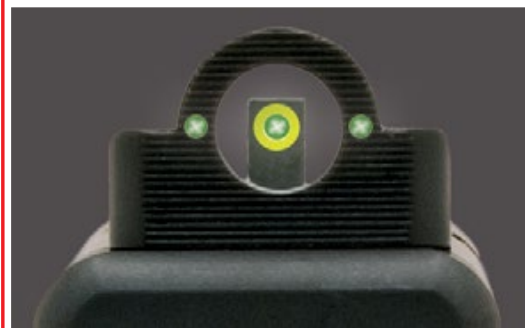
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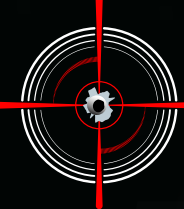
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**BUDGET COMPACT**



# THE NEXT MILLENNIUM **G2**

**Taurus' new PT-111 is feature-packed,  
priced right and sized for everyday carry.**

**BY PAUL SCARLATA PHOTOS BY STEVE WOODS**

**THE FIRM OF TAURUS FORJAS** of Porto Alegre, Brazil, is the largest handgun manufacturer in Latin America. The company began making handguns in 1941, and in 1968 it entered the U.S. market where, thanks to its quality and economical prices, it quickly became a major player.

It will come as no surprise that the PT-111 Millennium G2 uses a polymer frame. The use of polymers for handgun frames and internal components began in the 1980s and took the firearms world by storm because the material proved capable of standing up to service and wear as well as, if not better, than metal; it had excellent resistance to moisture, salts, wear, oils and solvents; the material is significantly lighter than metal; polymer frames flex under recoil, absorbing some of the recoil pulse; and polymer components could be produced faster and cheaper than those made from metal. Today just about every handgun manufacturer in the world offers pistols and/or revolvers featuring "plastic" frames.

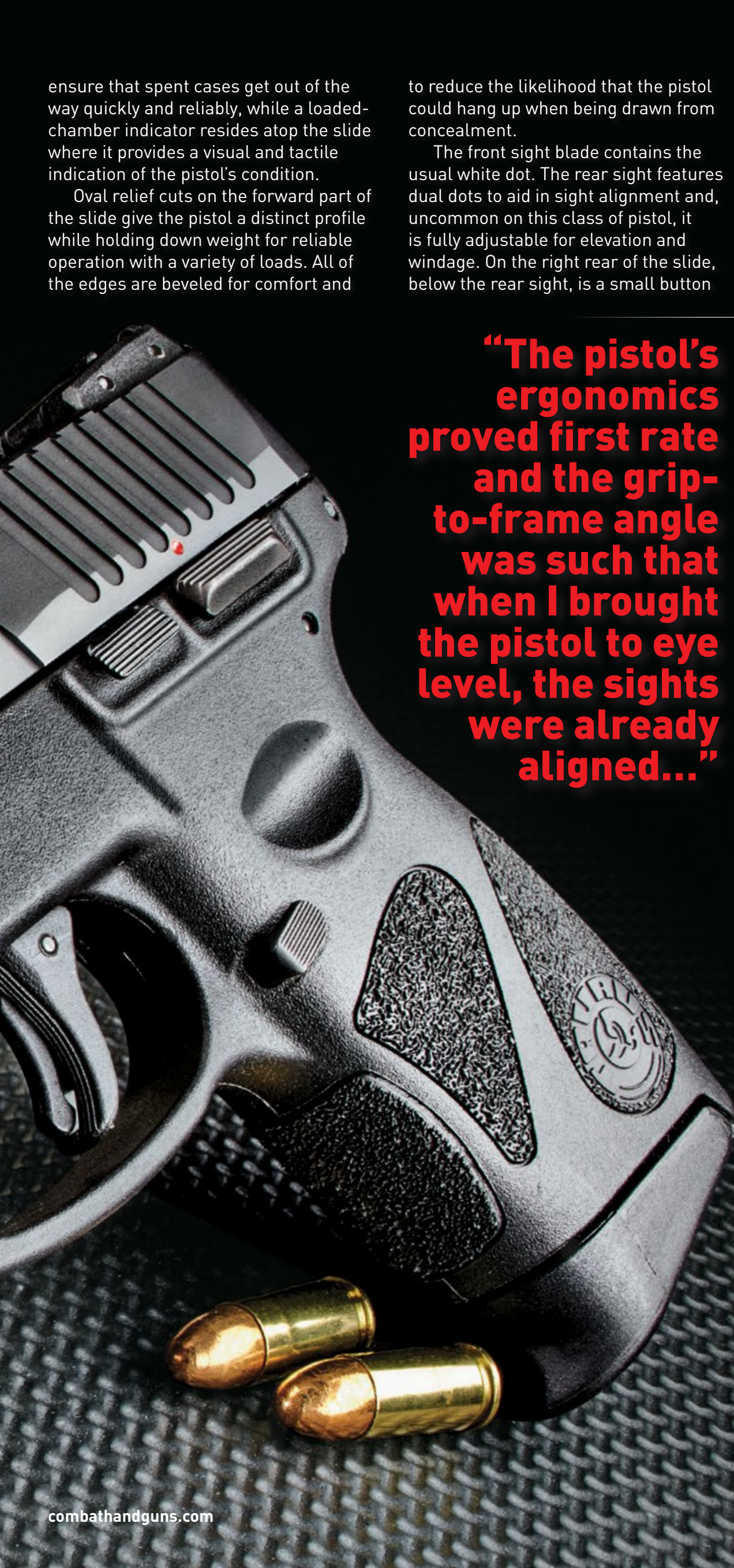
## ● **COVERT 9MM**

Taurus designed the G2 specifically for concealed carry by licensed civilians and police officers. It is available chambered in either 9mm or .40 S&W, and it features a machined, blued steel slide (stainless slides are optional) with sharply cut cocking serrations and a large external extractor. The ejection port has been lowered and flared to



The compact Millennium G2 has several top-notch features, including an accessory rail. Shown with a TruGlo Micro-Tac laser.





ensure that spent cases get out of the way quickly and reliably, while a loaded-chamber indicator resides atop the slide where it provides a visual and tactile indication of the pistol's condition.

Oval relief cuts on the forward part of the slide give the pistol a distinct profile while holding down weight for reliable operation with a variety of loads. All of the edges are beveled for comfort and

to reduce the likelihood that the pistol could hang up when being drawn from concealment.

The front sight blade contains the usual white dot. The rear sight features dual dots to aid in sight alignment and, uncommon on this class of pistol, it is fully adjustable for elevation and windage. On the right rear of the slide, below the rear sight, is a small button

**“The pistol's ergonomics proved first rate and the grip-to-frame angle was such that when I brought the pistol to eye level, the sights were already aligned...”**

into which you can insert a provided key to activate the Taurus Security System, which prevents unauthorized firing of the pistol when in the locked position.

Aggressively textured panels on the sides, front and rear of the grip frame provide a firm purchase that is accentuated by the finger-rest extension magazine baseplate which allows a full, three-finger grip. The gun's double-column magazine holds an even dozen rounds of 9mm ammo, and 10-round magazines are available for those poor souls living in states where politicians have infringed on Second Amendment rights.

All of the controls are easily accessible without moving the pistol around in your hand and positive in operation. The pistol's ergonomics proved first rate and the grip-to-frame angle was such that when I brought the pistol to eye level, the sights were already aligned on the object I was looking at. A nice touch is the accessory rail, which allows the mounting of tactical lights or lasers, which would be especially useful if the pistol is used for home defense.

## ● **SAFE STRIKER**

Most of the striker-fired pistols on the market today do not feature an external, manual safety. The G2 differs in being fitted with an external thumb safety that, when engaged, immobilizes both the trigger and slide. The safety is well positioned and swiping it off with the thumb of your right hand as the pistol is drawn is almost a natural action.

Additional safety is provided via a lever on the face of the G2's trigger, which must be completely depressed or it blocks trigger movement, and a firing pin block that is only disengaged by a full stroke of the trigger.

The G2 is a striker-fired pistol that brings us to yet another feature that

### ► **SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **TAURUS PT-111 MILLENNIUM G2**

Caliber	9mm
Barrel	3.2 inches
OA Length	6.24 inches
Weight	22 ounces (empty)
Grip	Polymer
Sights	Three-dot
Action	Striker-fired
Finish	Matte black
Capacity	12+1
MSRP	\$301



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## TAURUS PT-111 MILLENNIUM G2



The Millennium G2 was pleasantly  
accurate with all of the test ammo.

BECKY SCARLATA PHOTO

### PERFORMANCE

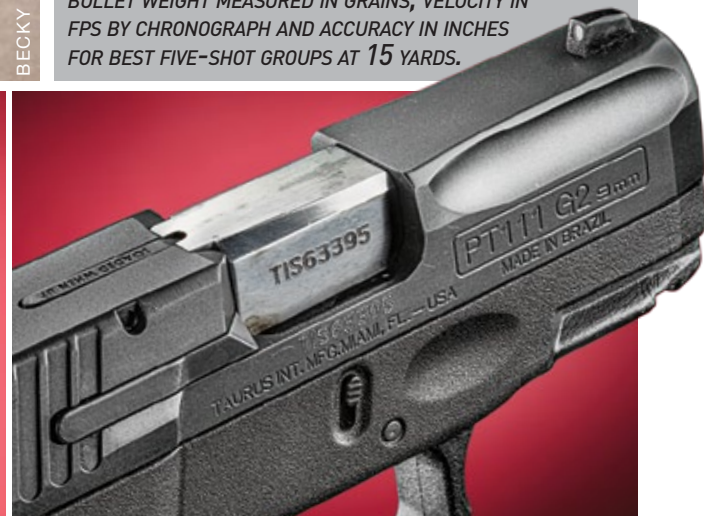
#### TAURUS PT-111 MILLENNIUM G2

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
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Liberty Civil Defense 50 +P	1,919	2.00
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sets it apart from the competition—its double-action/single-action trigger. When the pistol is cocked, the trigger has a long, light take-up before a crisp single-action let-off. But unlike most striker-fired designs on the market today, the trigger provides a reassuring double-strike capability.

In case of a misfire, you do not have to partially retract the slide to reset the striker—you just pull the trigger through a somewhat heavier stroke for a second try at a stubborn primer. I believe this is an excellent feature and one that is missing on many of today's striker-fired pistols. It should also be noted that the trigger on the G2 I tested had a very short reset that could be both felt and heard, which is a nice feature for making slow, precise shots.

### TO THE RANGE


Accuracy testing was conducted from 15 yards by firing a series of five-shot groups off an MTM K-Zone rest with 9mm factory ammo loaded with four different bullet weights. Apparently, the pistol had been zeroed before it left the factory, as all of my groups were close enough to the point of aim that I did not have to touch the adjustment screws on the rear sight at all.

I then set up a combat target and ran the G2 through a series of drills. As I did not have a suitable holster, each

drill began with me holding the pistol at the "low ready" position. From 5 yards, I lifted the pistol and fired six rounds with a supported grip. I then switched the pistol to my weak hand and repeated the drill. At 7 yards, I fired six sets of double-taps, lowering the pistol between each two-shot string. Finally, from 10 yards, I lifted the pistol and fired 12 rounds through slow, aimed fire.

The pistol's recoil was very controllable and overall handling was excellent, which, combined with light trigger pull and large, easy-to-see sights, allowed me to put ever single round—except one that mysteriously wandered out into the 8 ring—inside the confines of the higher scoring zones of the target. That's not too shabby a performance for the first time out with an untried pistol.

The finger-rest extension on the magazine permitted a secure purchase that, when combined with the aggressive texturing and ergonomics of the grip, resulted in enhanced recoil control, especially for a pistol this light.

I found Taurus' PT-111 Millennium G2 a fine-handling, easy-shooting pistol that would be a very practical choice for concealed carry by civilians or police officers, home or business defense, and it has the added benefit of retailing for considerably less than many of its competitors. For more information, visit [taurususa.com](http://taurususa.com) or call 800-327-3776. 





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## TAURUS PT-111 MILLENNIUM G2

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### EAA WITNESS PAVONA POLYMER COMPACT

Unlike most semi-auto pistols, the EAA Pavona's rails are on the inside of the frame and run the length of the slide for full support, smoother cycling and consistent lockup. This feature also lets the slide sit deeper in the frame, lowering the bore axis for reduced muzzle flip. A manual thumb safety allows "cocked and locked" carry, and the polymer frame is available in five attractive colors. ([eaacorp.com](http://eaacorp.com); 321-639-4842)

#### Specifications

**Caliber** ▶ 9mm  
**Barrel** ▶ 3.6 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 7.3 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 30.4 ounces (empty)  
**Grip** ▶ Polymer  
**Sights** ▶ Three-dot  
**Action** ▶ DA/SA  
**Finish** ▶ Fandango  
**Capacity** ▶ 13+1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$403-\$434



### RUGER 9E

The 9E offers the new shooter a quality pistol at an affordable price. It is technically and structurally identical to Ruger's SR9, and it includes such features as a glass-filled nylon frame, a steel slide, ambidextrous magazine releases and manual safeties, a magazine disconnect safety, a reversible grip backstrap and a rail for tactical accessories. But minor changes to the slide, finish and sights mean the MSRP is more than \$100 less than the SR9. ([ruger.com](http://ruger.com))

#### Specifications

**Caliber** ▶ 9mm  
**Barrel** ▶ 4.1 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 7.5 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 27.2 ounces (empty)  
**Grip** ▶ Glass-filled nylon  
**Sights** ▶ Fixed, windage adjustable  
**Action** ▶ Striker-fired  
**Finish** ▶ Black oxide  
**Capacity** ▶ 17+1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$429



### HI-POINT C-9

Known for its simplicity, ruggedness and attractive price, the C-9 features a die-cast-steel-reinforced slide atop a polymer frame with separate grip panels. Features include simple blowback operation, three-dot sights, a manual safety, a magazine disconnect, as well as eight- and 10-round magazines. The pistol is also +P rated. ([hi-pointfirearms.com](http://hi-pointfirearms.com))

#### Specifications

**Caliber** ▶ 9mm  
**Barrel** ▶ 3.5 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 6.75 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 29 ounces (empty)  
**Grip** ▶ Polymer  
**Sights** ▶ Three-dot  
**Action** ▶ DAO  
**Finish** ▶ Matte black  
**Capacity** ▶ 8+1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$189



### SMITH & WESSON SD9 VE

The SD9 VD's stainless steel slide has dual grasping grooves, dovetailed sights and a distinctive two-tone finish. The aggressively textured polymer frame provides enhanced recoil control, and it also has a rail for mounting tactical accessories. The Self Defense Trigger provides a consistent trigger pull, and the double-stack magazine holds 16 rounds. ([smith-wesson.com](http://smith-wesson.com); 800-331-0852)

#### Specifications

**Caliber** ▶ 9mm  
**Barrel** ▶ 4 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 7.2 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 22.7 ounces (empty)  
**Grip** ▶ Polymer  
**Sights** ▶ Three-dot  
**Action** ▶ Striker-fired  
**Finish** ▶ Two-tone  
**Capacity** ▶ 16+1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$389

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### SPRINGFIELD XD 4-INCH SERVICE

The polymer-framed XD pistol sports a tactical accessory rail, ambidextrous magazine releases, a grip safety and Springfield Armory's Ultra Safe Assurance trigger system. The machined steel slide features front and rear grasping grooves and steel sights, while a loaded-chamber and cocked-striker indicators provide visual and tactile indications of the pistol's condition. Unlike some of the competition, disassembly of the Springfield XD is especially easy. ([springfield-armory.com](http://springfield-armory.com); 800-680-6866)

#### Specifications

**Caliber** ▶ 9mm  
**Barrel** ▶ 4 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 7.3 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 28 ounces (empty)  
**Grip** ▶ Polymer  
**Sights** ▶ Dovetail front, 3-dot rear  
**Action** ▶ Striker-fired  
**Finish** ▶ Melonite  
**Capacity** ▶ 16+1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$473



### TAURUS 738 TCP

The 738 TCP is an affordable choice for those needing a deep-cover pistol. The polymer frame holds weight down to 10.2 ounces, the stainless steel frame provides protection from wear, perspiration and the elements, while the DAO trigger makes for simple operation. A textured grip makes for good recoil control while the low-profile fixed sights allow a snag-free presentation from concealment. ([taurususa.com](http://taurususa.com); 800-327-3776)

#### Specifications

**Caliber** ▶ .380 ACP  
**Barrel** ▶ 2.84 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 5.25 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 10.2 ounces (empty)  
**Sights** ▶ Three-dot  
**Action** ▶ DAO  
**Finish** ▶ Matte black  
**Capacity** ▶ 6 + 1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$355

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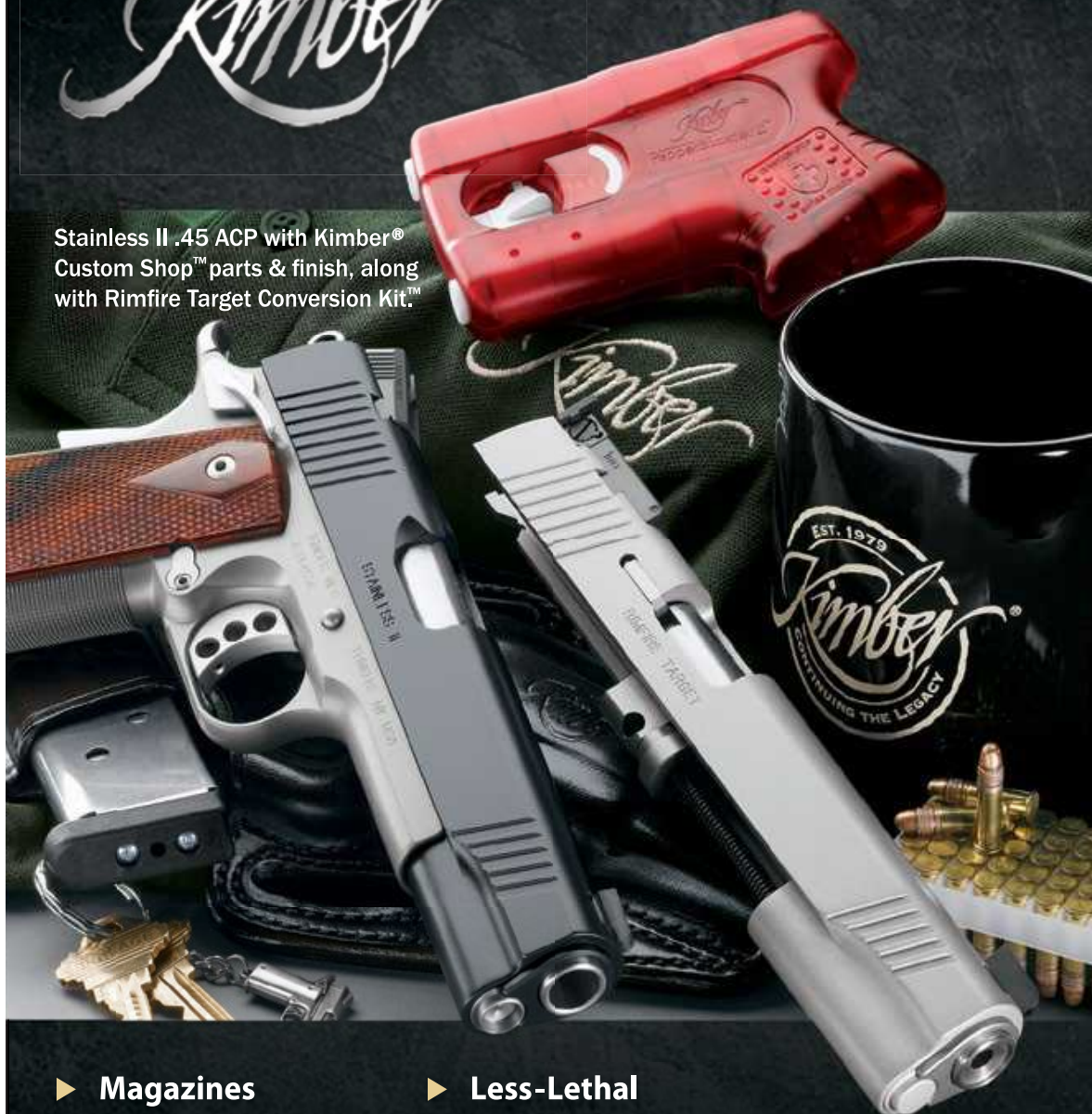
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# XTRA DUTY

Go the distance with Springfield's new

BY DENNIS ADLER



**Weighing 27.5 ounces unloaded, the new XD Mod.2 4-Inch Service Model from Springfield Armory is a comparative lightweight in this full-sized, duty-ready handgun category.**

**IN 2015, SPRINGFIELD ARMORY** upgraded its XD Sub-Compact line to the Mod.2 series. And now the latest XD Mod.2 pistol takes things just a little further—about 1 inch further—with a new, 4-inch-barreled Service Model chambered in 9mm.

Based on Springfield's latest update to the established XD series, introduced in 2002, the new Mod.2 versions are a combination of the proven 3-inch-barreled XD Sub-Compact with features

from Springfield's highly successful XD-S series. With more than a decade of XD design experience under its belt, Springfield took the best aspects of the original XD Sub-Compact and the improvements made to the XD-S and put them together in the Mod.2.

More than an amalgam of two guns, the Mod.2 series sports a re-contoured polymer frame and slide interface that gives them a cleaner, more integrated look than any previous XD model. One

important advantage to the Mod.2's design is that it retains the original striker status indicator (actually the back of the striker), which protrudes slightly from the rear of the slide. This is one very quick way to tell if the action has been cycled and ready to fire. It does not, however, guarantee that a round is chambered. To make that determination, you can use the gun's loaded-chamber indicator, which rises slightly behind the top of the ejection port, appearing just



# XD MOD.2

16+1, 4-inch Service Model in 9mm.



In addition to a longer 4-inch barrel, the slide features more front and rear serrations along with standard XD Mod.2 features, like the polymer frame and its innovative Grip Zone texturing.

## SPECIFICATIONS

### SPRINGFIELD XD MOD.2 4-INCH SERVICE MODEL

Caliber	9mm
Barrel	4 inches
OA Length	7.3 inches
Weight	27.5 ounces (empty)
Grip	Polymer
Sights	Fiber-optic front, combat rear
Action	Striker-fired
Finish	Matte black
Capacity	16+1
MSRP	\$616

under the sight line. These two quick visual or tactile checks clearly indicate the gun's status.

#### ● TAKING HOLD

At the heart of every Mod.2 pistol is the Grip Zone multi-surface texturing that's built into the molding of the lightweight polymer frame and interchangeable backstrap panels. The Grip Zone has its most aggressive texturing around the three-quarter panel where the palm

swell and the first joint of the fingers wrap around the grip. The front and rear surfaces are the second most aggressively textured where the palm and the inside of the fingers grasp the pistol. In combination, the textures contribute to maintaining a more secure grip as the gun recoils, even under conditions where one's hands might be a little sweaty.

The multiple gripping surfaces also work extremely well with leather tactical gloves to keep the pistol firmly in hand.



## ► SPRINGFIELD XD MOD.2 4-INCH SERVICE MODEL

The two-dot rear sight is quick to acquire, and a loaded-chamber indicator is located behind the ejection port. When it is raised, a round is in the chamber.



The longer slide and barrel provide a longer sight radius for faster targeting.



**“The entire line of XD models... has proven faultless for me through a variety of tests over the years, and this latest 4-inch Service Model is no different.”**

The remainder of the Grip Zone texturing is a mild pebble grain that covers the grip's side panels (which have the words “Grip Zone” embossed into them) and extends to the entire frame, again contributing to the Mod.2's integrated look. Additionally, the Mod.2 triggerguard is now rounded at the front like the latest XD-S models, rather than being squared off like earlier XD series.

A more curved and slightly nar-

rower slide offers improvements with Springfield's Posi-Wedge rear slide serrations, providing five deep grooves to help reduce the chance for slippage when racking the slide. The 4-inch Service Model adds three additional grooves at the front of the slide. The big news for the Mod.2 in general, and new 4-inch Service Model in particular, is sighting. XD Mod.2 slides are equipped with the same red fiber-optic front sight

and combat-style white-dot rear sights used on the XD-S models. This gives the Mod.2 the same capability to sight in the target under a greater variety of lighting conditions. The sights are also dovetailed for individual sighting preferences and windage adjustments.

### ● DO-IT-ALL NINE

Tipping the scale at 27.5 ounces unloaded, the 4-inch Service Model is comparatively lightweight for this handgun category, with the gun measuring 7.3 inches in length, 5.5 inches in height, from the base of the magazine to the top of the low-profile combat rear sight, and 1.125 inches in width (including the slide, frame and slide release lever). The standard capacity for the new Service Model is 16+1.

The Mod.2's superb grip angle and high beavertail and grip safety work in combination with Springfield's Ultra Safety Assurance blade trigger to provide double safeties when handling and holstering the pistol. With carry in mind, the new Service Model is suitable for duty use or concealed carry, and, with its longer barrel and improved sights, it also makes a good competition pistol for both

Note the striker status indicator at the rear of the slide as well as the pistol's wide rear serrations.





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**SPRINGFIELD XD MOD.2 4-INCH SERVICE MODEL**



**“It is dependable, accurate...  
and tough as a railroad  
spike for durability.”**

IPSC and IDPA matches.

Every Mod.2 comes with its own injection-molded, form-fit belt holster and a double magazine pouch, so right out of the box it is ready to go for everyday carry or practical shooting competitions. There are also a variety of premium leather and Kydex rigs on the market made for the XD series.

**XTREME TESTING**

Using Federal American Eagle 150-grain full metal jacket (FMJ) ammo at a range

of 15 yards, the best five-round group measured 1.24 inches in the 10 and X rings with two rounds almost in the same hole. The second series of tests were conducted using higher-velocity defensive ammunition, including Sig Sauer's Elite Performance V-Crown 124-grain jacketed hollow points (JHPs) and Federal Premium's 124-grain Hydra-Shok JHPs. While the Federal American Eagle ball ammo clocked 1,185 fps through the chronograph's traps, the Federal Hydra-Shok traveled at 1,095 fps



The red fiber-optic front sight is easy to center between the rear sight's two white dots. Also note the grip safety included as part of the XD pistol's high-rise beavertail.



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# COUNT ON IT.

Photo: Wes Doss, Khyler Training

The all new AUG A3 M1 and the L9-A1 pistol,  
the perfect combination for sports shooters and  
law enforcement professionals, alike.



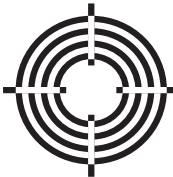
### AUG A3 M1 Rifle

The new multi-configurable AUG A3 M1 variant of the Steyr's venerable bullpup platform marks the introduction of MUD and the return of OD Green to its stock color options and adds new features like a front Quick-Disconnect Sling Swivel to classic characteristics like the quick-detach 16-inch barrel and battle-proven short-stroke gas-piston operation. It is available in Short-Rail, High-Rail and Integrated Optic versions with either a 1.5X or 3X scope. At 28.15 inches, Y SBR?



### L-A1 Pistol

Featuring a full-length slide, 4.5-inch cold-hammer-forged barrel and 17-round magazine capacity for its 9x19mm Luger chambering and 12 rounds for .40 S&W, the new L-A1 service pistol was designed for the serious shooter to serve the dual role of a duty and sporting handgun. With its comfortable ergonomics, a remarkably low bore axis, a crisp short-reset trigger, extreme reliability and amazing accuracy, the L-A1 is the perfect partner on the range and off.



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## XD MOD.2 4-INCH SERVICE

PERFORMANCE		
SPRINGFIELD XD MOD.2 4-INCH SERVICE MODEL 9MM		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Federal American Eagle 115 FMJ	1,185	1.24
Federal 124 Hydra-Shok JHP	1,095	1.75
Sig Sauer Elite Performance V-Crown 124 JHP	1,125	1.20

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 15 YARDS.

Thanks to the pistol's light recoil, crisp trigger and high-visibility sights, it was easy to create tight groups at 15 yards.

and Sig Sauer's Elite Performance JHP had an average velocity of 1,125 fps.

Firing five-round groups off-hand from 15 yards, the best five shots with the Hydra-Shok ammo covered 1.75 inches in the X ring, and aiming to the lower right of the 9 ring, five Sig V-Crown rounds came together at 1.2 inches with two overlapping.

The entire line of XD models, the XD-S and the new Mod.2 in particular, has proven faultless for me through a variety of tests over the years, and this latest 4-inch Service Model is no different. It is dependable, accurate, very easy to disassemble for cleaning and tough as a railroad spike for durability. With all of its standard features (there is virtually nothing to upgrade), the XD Mod.2 4-inch Service Model adds another handgun to the Springfield XD lineup that is truly greater than the sum of its parts. For more information visit [springfield-armory.com](http://springfield-armory.com) or call 800-680-6866. CH

**Editor's Note:**  
Check out a video of the author putting the XD Mod.2 4-inch Service Model through its paces on the range at [tactical-life.com](http://tactical-life.com).





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ENTRY-LEVEL 1911

# EAA'S NEW REDEFINED COMBAT .45

Meet the Witness  
Polymer 1911  
Tanfoglio, the  
ready-to-pack  
single-stack classic!

BY DAVID BAHDE



**POLYMER FRAMES HAVE WORKED** their way into virtually every aspect of handgun manufacture, including revolvers. Polymer-based handguns remain the first choice among most police agencies and concealed carriers, with even the military looking in that direction as well. Even the venerable 1911 has seen double-stacked, polymer-framed designs for years.

Until now the only thing missing was a single-stack, polymer 1911 in .45 ACP. There was no reason in particular it wouldn't work, at least none that could be proven. Many polymer-framed handguns use steel inserts these days

to deal with slide-to-frame fit, and the durability of polymer has never really proven to be problematic. The only real issue would seem to be the feed ramp, and that can be dealt with by using fully ramped barrels or even steel frames being inserted into polymer. It was just a matter of time before this idea became a reality, and now European American Armory (EAA) has unveiled its Witness 1911 Polymer.

## REBORN WARHORSE

The Witness uses a steel frame with polymer molded around it to complete

the remainder of the frame.

There is no metal-to-polymer contact outside of the checkered, steel magazine release. The slide contains standard

1911 parts, too, including a standard guide rod and spring. The barrel bushing is steel and the return spring plug is plastic. Steel is used for the grip safety, the thumb safety, the slide release, the trigger and the plunger tube. The trigger's internals and pins are Series 70 and all metal with a mid-reach, solid







SPECIFICATIONS	
EAA WITNESS 1911 POLYMER	
Caliber	.45 ACP
Barrel	5 inches
OA Length	8.58 inches
Weight	32 ounces (empty)
Grip	Polymer
Sights	Dovetailed
Action	SA
Finish	Matte black
Capacity	8+1
MSRP	\$580

The pistol's polymer frame reduces weight. Even the rounded, serrated mainspring housing is polymer.

**“From off-hand at 10 yards, it was possible to consistently get fist-sized groups even on the move.”**

trigger shoe. The pistol's hammer is a “long hole” or skeletonized design. Polymer was used on the slightly rounded mainspring housing, and the grip safety is a full beavertail with an extended pad. There is no beveling on the mag well and the frontstrap is neither stippled nor checkered. The trigger housing is round and smooth. The molded grip includes a front rail typical of similar 1911 designs to accommodate lights and other accessories.

A steel slide houses a standard, ramped .45 ACP barrel that is marked “CAL 45 ACP;” no match chamber is indicated. Cocking serrations are at

the rear only. The Witness' front and rear sights are dovetailed, black and drift adjustable. The front sight is kept in place by a set screw. The rear sight is a standard design, not your typical low-profile sight for concealed carry. The pistol's grips are black, checkered and polymer. EAA ships the Witness 1911 pistol with one eight-round magazine in a small hard case.

#### ● **LIGHTWEIGHT .45**

The Witness Polymer's weight is listed at 32 ounces, which is about 8 ounces lighter than most full-sized 1911 pistols and similar to some alloy-framed full-sized

models. The finish on the pistol's frame was smooth with no sharp edges or molding marks. The mainspring housing has a slight hump at the bottom—it's not flat, but it's not rounded either. When holding and pointing the gun, it feels like a flat-housing-equipped pistol.

The thumb safety was properly tensioned, delivering a solid “click” commensurate with most base-model 1911s. Similarly, the grip safety's tension was correct, and it bounced back nicely and functioned perfectly throughout testing. Serrations on the trigger provide a sure feel with a medium reach. The trigger's take-up was quite smooth and its break



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EAA WITNESS 1911 POLYMER



A rail is molded into the 1911's polymer frame for accessories such as lasers and lights, like this SureFire X300 Ultra.



The rear sight offers a ledge for emergency reloads.



The front sight can be adjusted or replaced as necessary.

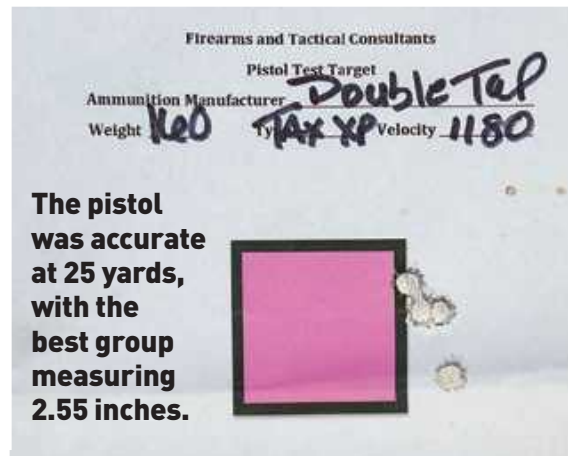
was crisp at about 5.25 pounds with no noticeable overtravel. The trigger engaged the sear properly, with a clear and repeatable reset every time.

Pre-break-in slide-to-frame fit was a bit rough to cycle with very little play or side-to-side movement. Again, that's about what you expect from a base-model 1911; some time on the range will smooth it out. Both my Streamlight and SureFire lights fit the rail tightly, and the DG-18 switch on the X300 lined up properly. It fit in all of my holsters designed to accommodate either a weapon-mounted light or a light rail.

During testing, all magazines dropped free during dry fire, although the release is a bit "sticky." Range time or just a bit of fitting would cure that. Everything in the pistol is standard 1911, meaning upgrading it with any aftermarket parts should be as simple as it gets.



At the range, the Witness 1911 Polymer handled well and ran every test load reliably.



The pistol was accurate at 25 yards, with the best group measuring 2.55 inches.

## ● RANGE REPORT

In field-stripping the Witness Polymer 1911 prior to shooting, I found it disassembled like any 1911. No wrench was needed for the barrel bushing, the slide stop pushed out properly (by hand) and the rest was pure 1911. While the plastic recoil spring plug worked fine, it would be my only must-replace part from the get go. Lightly oiled, it was put back together and the fun began.

To test "out of the box" reliability with hollow points, three magazines were filled with different self-defense loads. Each magazine was fired half slow, half





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The 5-inch barrel is held in place with a standard bushing.

**“Loaded at just over ‘major,’ the 200-grain bullets make it a ton of fun to shoot and suitable for action pistol matches.”**

rapid fire. Throughout this, there was not a single malfunction or failure to go into battery. Having had a custom 1911 or two fail this test, I found it very promising. I then broke in the Witness with a few hundred rounds of DoubleTap’s new Target line. Loaded with 230-grain FMJ to match specifications, the pistol cycled without issue. Another couple hundred rounds of Federal American Eagle 230-grain FMJ worked out any burrs or other issues.

Further testing with self-defense ammunition yielded similar results.

Reliability overall was excellent, which is what you expect from a basic 1911 pistol no matter its construction.

The Witness Polymer 1911’s accuracy was also pretty solid. Without a match chamber, tiny little groups were not expected, but my best group using the DoubleTap 160-Grain +P ammunition measured 2.5 inches. The gun was pretty consistent across the board with everything patterning right at 2.5 to 3 inches. Moving to more practical distances, it performed quite well. From off-hand at 10 yards, it was possible to consistently

get fist-sized groups even on the move. A concerted aiming effort at 7 yards produced tightly stacked groups with absolutely no flyers present.

Recoil was very similar to lightweight, alloy-framed 1911 pistols I’ve tested. In my experience, the lighter +P loads are often the most comfortable in these guns, and this pistol was no exception. Both DoubleTap’s 160 grain and Black Hills’ 185-grain TAC-XP +P loads were very comfortable and controllable. A steady diet of the Winchester 230-grain loads was a bit stout. All were controllable, however, given a solid shooting grip. Loaded with a bunch of my .45 ACP reloads from my ISPC days, the EAA Witness Polymer 1911 was quite a pleasure to shoot at the range. Loaded at just over “major,” the 200-grain bullets make it a ton of fun to shoot and suitable for action pistol matches.

Most of the testing was completed with the SureFire X300 light attached. Polymer-framed pistols often suffer failures when lights are attached, especially if their magazine springs are weak. There were no such issues with the Witness 1911, however, as it worked just fine throughout the evaluation.



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PERFORMANCE		
EAA WITNESS 1911 POLYMER		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
DoubleTap Target 160 +P	1,180	2.55
Federal Premium 230 HST	894	2.80
Speer 230 Gold Dot	915	2.75
Winchester Ranger 230 SXT	900	2.60

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

I used several magazines throughout testing, including the single factory magazine provided. The alternates included Wilson Combat's 47D, McCormick's eight-round Power Mag with 10-8 Performance basepads in addition to 10-round Power Mags. They all worked, although my favorites are the Wilson 47D or the gun's factory mag and then the Power Mags. They all locked the slide open and returned to battery using the "slingshot" method or simply by pressing the slide release.

### PARTING POINTS

Alloy-framed 1911 pistols have always enjoyed a bit of controversy, as many still see them as carry pistols you don't shoot much. Having put well over 10,000 rounds through a few alloy-framed 1911s with no issues, that's an opinion that has just not been supported out in the real world for years. Metals are now stronger, machining is better and tolerances are tighter. The same has held true for polymer.

Recalling all the naysayers of old who claimed "plastic pistols won't last," time and real testing has proven that idea to be nonsense. Polymer-framed pistols cost less to manufacture and can offer significant weight savings. Improvements in melding polymer frames and inner steel structures has changed the game considerably, and the Witness Polymer 1911 would appear to be a good example. This gun's function was as good as any basic 1911 pistol I've tested, especially those retailing for around \$600. It provides yet another solid choice in a quickly expanding entry-level 1911 market. If this test is any indication, the gun's future surely looks promising. For more information, visit [eaacorp.com](http://eaacorp.com) or call 321-639-4842. 

#### Editor's Note:

Look for live-fire video of the new EAA Witness Polymer 1911 on [tactical-life.com](http://tactical-life.com)



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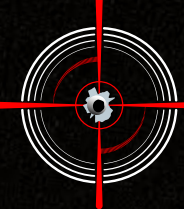
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# RED-DOT ROCKKIN' SHADOW



## GET READY TO SHOOT LIGHTS OUT WITH NIGHTHAWK'S NEW SMOOTH-SHOOTING 9MM BIRD OF PREY!

**BY D. K. PRIDGEN PHOTOS COURTESY NIGHTHAWK**

**OVER THE YEARS**, I've found two kinds of people in the firearm world: those who like Model 1911s and those who have never fired a good 1911. There are a number of 1911 manufacturers whose products are excellent right out of the box. There are also custom pistolsmiths who really can take the Model 1911 platform a leap above production guns—custom gun-makers such as Nighthawk Custom of Berryville, Arkansas.

Nighthawk Custom shot from the gate in 2003 with what empowers every successful custom shop—professional, experienced gunsmiths. Thirteen years later, nothing has changed. I can say this because a number of firearms wearing Nighthawk Custom's eagle logo have passed through my hands. Every one

chugged right along during testing, and no doubt are still chugging away.

In 2012, Nighthawk Custom began using only fully machined parts in its pistols. This provides increased durability and improved quality. It also gives Nighthawk bragging rights when compared to shops not using solely machined parts. These parts join Nighthawk's frames and slides, which are also machined from solid forgings in the Berryville plant.

New products are the lifeblood of firearm companies, including custom shops. Nighthawk has met this admirably with a bevy of new ideas over the years and through collaborations with a number of knowledgeable folks: Richard Heinie, Bob Marvel, Chris Costa and Advanced

Armament Corporation. The fact that renowned pistolsmith Richard Heinie allows Nighthawk to manufacture models associated with him speaks volumes. Along the way, Nighthawk Custom also added custom shotguns and custom leather, and began distributing Keith Murr's top-shelf knives.

### ● **OPTIC-READY 1911**

One of Nighthawk's latest offerings is its Shadow Hawk, a 5-inch-barreled, 9mm 1911 that can be upgraded to wear a compact red-dot sight. Why 9mm? Increased capacity, availability of ammo, cost of ammo, ease of shooting and lack of recoil. The Shadow Hawk will also be available as a Commander-sized frame and a Government Recon model without



# HAWK

Nighthawk's latest 9mm Shadow Hawk comes with a Trijicon RMR reflex sight built in for extremely fast targeting at close range. It's perfect for competition and personal defense.



a compact red-dot sight.

The use of red-dot sights on pistols is not new, it harkens back to early USPSA competitors who mounted Aimpoints and others on their pistols. Quick and accurate, those pistols had two negative attributes: increased weight and increased bulk, both preventing carrying them concealed. Today competitors still use red-dot sights for the same advantages.

Many concealed carriers are moving toward red-dots riding their slides—compact red-dots. Concealed carriers choose red-dots for the same reason competitors have—speed and accu-

racy—two things you can never have too much of during a highly fluid, armed confrontation. Unlike USPSA *Star Wars* pistols, with compact red-dots, these pistols can be as easily concealed as

those not wearing optics. Armed confrontations are in a state of continual flux and seldom, if ever, lend themselves to “standing and delivering.” In this maelstrom, seeing iron sights may become difficult given the eye’s tendency to focus on the threat. Red-dot sights with little, if any, parallax are seen much easier.

The Nighthawk Shadow Hawk has been upgraded with a 1.2-ounce, RM06 Trijicon RMR (Ruggedized Miniature Reflex) sight. When I asked Nighthawk’s Mark Stone about the pistol’s origins, he said the “Nighthawk Shadow Hawk is basically the pistol Steve Fisher and

**“Not just a fast-shooting pretty face, the Shadow Hawk is capable of excellent accuracy. In fact, it is capable of anything you could ask of a defensive pistol.”**

Magpul Dynamics requested when we built their training pistols. Even after leaving Magpul to start Sentinel Concepts, Steve provided a lot of input on the Shadow Hawk. Steve worked with Trijicon and we demonstrated their new RMR 1911 mount on the Shadow Hawk.”

With an RMR, the slide becomes the Shadow Hawk’s defining feature, with a traditional smooth top, wide, slanted cocking serrations fore and aft, and a flared and lowered ejection port. Trijicon suppressor sights are dovetailed into the slide; the front pushing from the side and the back sight sliding in from the rear, leaving it ever so slightly protruding from the slide. Across the back of the slide’s rear, and across the back of the rear suppressor sight, are 40-lpi horizontal serrations. The slide houses



## NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM GUNSMITHING SHADOW HAWK



Aside from the reflex-sight-ready slide, Nighthawk has packed in several features, including a flat-faced trigger, a one-piece mainspring housing/magazine well, G10 grips and a long dust-cover rail for adding accessories like lights and lasers.

a black, nitride-treated, stainless steel barrel marked "NHC 9mm NM" with a countersunk target muzzle. The National Match barrel is mated perfectly to a beveled stainless steel bushing for a tight lockup when in battery. Beneath that is a smooth spring plug.

Of course, there is the RMR, recessed about 0.25 inches into the slide top and riding Trijicon's new 1911 mount. The forged aluminum RM06 is a zero-magnification, LED red-dot sight. It has a 3.25-MOA dot that's effective in close-

quarters and precision shooting, and runs for over four years at setting 4. The RM06 adjusts for windage, elevation and dot brightness. Battle proven, the rugged Trijicon RMR system is an excellent choice for quick targeting.

### ● HIGH-END 1911

A frame sporting an equipment rail supports my sample Shadow Hawk's slide, making it a member of Nighthawk's "Recon" family. There are a number of traits in Nighthawk's Shadow Hawk

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## EDC SHADOW HAWK RIGS

One thing every defensive handgun needs is a holster. After all, a pistol not carried is of no use. The Shadow Hawk is a serious pistol and deserves serious leather. The number of holsters available for a 1911 is pretty high, but add a rail to the pistol and available number plummets. Add a light and watch the bottom fall out. Despite this, quality holsters for the Nighthawk Shadow Hawk 1911 can easily be found.

**BIANCHI:** Bianchi also has concealable holsters for railed 1911s. Its minimalistic 7506 Thumbsnap Belt Slide made of AccuMold ballistic weave. It features dual snap belt loops for a convenient, quick release without belt removal. (safariiland.com; 800-347-1200)

**BLACKHAWK:** BlackHawk offers its polymer Level 2 Serpa for 1911s wearing the Xiphos NT weapon light (shown). Serpas are super-fast retention holsters. (blackhawk.com; 800-379-1732)

**CROSSBREED:** CrossBreed Holsters offers its SuperTuck IWB/tuckable holster for railed 1911s. Very concealable, the SuperTuck is also quite comfortable and uses both Kydex and leather. OWB fans should check out the Snapslide, a Kydex and leather holster. (888-732-5011; crossbreedholsters.com)

**DESANTIS:** DeSantis has a number of holsters for railed 1911s, including its unique Invisible Agent. The very concealable Invisible Agent is skeletonized and designed as a single holster to fit almost every handgun available. (desantisholster.com; 631-841-6300)

**GALCO:** Galco's Halo Belt Holster will hold a full-sized, railed 1911 with a weapon light in place, and can be concealed. The Halo is constructed of premium saddle leather, fits belts up to 1.75 inches wide and is available in right hand designs, in black. (galcogunleather.com; 800-874-2526)

found in other pistols from this custom shop. A narrow, extended thumb safety, a perfectly fitted, enhanced beavertail grip safety, 30-lpi checkering on the frontstrap, a bobbed slide stop shaft with beveled exit hole, a one-piece mainspring housing/magazine well machined from a 2.5-inch block of tool steel with 20-lpi checkering on the mainspring housing, a rounded butt, an extremely high undercut triggerguard, a skeletonized tool steel hammer and all the machined steel internal parts. The magazine well is aggressively funneled for hard-to-miss reloads.

The rounded butt aids in concealment and definitely provides improved feel. Durable, effective and attractive Nighthawk-branded Alien G10 grips are secured to the frame with hex screws. The pistol receives Nighthawk's good-looking black nitride finish, standard on all its black pistols.

Nitride salt finish can provide a durable finish and penetrate metal about 0.04 inches, elevating hardness. Not usually found on Nighthawks is the new straight, vertically serrated, solid trigger with no overtravel adjustment and a black Cerakote finish. The trigger broke crisply at just over 4 pounds, but it felt more like 3 pounds. Why a flat-faced trigger? It's the leverage principle: No matter where you put your finger, you still have the same amount of leverage required. It looks pretty wild, too!

### RANGE WORKOUT

Having worked with Trijicon RMR-equipped pistols before, I've learned several things. While counterintuitive, the learning curve when transitioning from iron sights to compact red-dots is much less with a good set of iron sights. Find the sights and then catch the red dot until finding the dot alone is quicker and more natural. Trijicon-RMR-equipped Shadow Hawk pistols wear excellent, easy-to-see iron sights.

Another thing to consider is having the sights' tritium vials a different color than the optic's dot. During a confrontation, having four red-dots in play will make things unnecessarily difficult. This isn't a problem with the Shadow Hawk—the vials are green and the Trijicon RMR is red.

A full-sized, all-steel 1911 chambered for the 9mm has several positives from the get-go. Among them are the low recoil of the 9mm cartridge and

### SPECIFICATIONS

#### NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM SHADOW HAWK

Caliber	9mm
Barrel	5 inches
OA Length	8.5 inches
Weight	42 ounces (empty)
Grips	Alien G10
Sights	Trijicon RMR red-dot, front blade
Action	SA
Finish	Matte black
Capacity	9+1
MSRP	\$3,795 [+\$1,100 FOR RMR AND SLIDE UPGRADE]

The slide has wide forward serrations, tall sights and a 5-inch, nitride-treated, stainless steel National Match barrel.



**“The only surprise I had at the range was just how good the Shadow Hawk made me shoot.”**

a weight around 42 ounces that enhances the cartridge's inherent lack of recoil, speeding up follow-up shots.

The only surprise I had at the range was just how good the Shadow Hawk made me shoot. Quick target acquisition was obvious from the start. None of the ammo I fed this pistol could make it choke, and all the defensive loads I fed it clustered into nice tight groups, with none going over 1 inch.

The Shadow Hawk and RMR gave me the confidence to ding some small steel plates at over 50 yards while standing.



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## NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM SHADOW HAWK



The 1911 ran flawlessly  
and produced tight groups,  
even during rapid fire.

### PERFORMANCE

#### NIGHTHAWK CUSTOM SHADOW HAWK 9mm

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Remington 124 Golden Saber HP	1,152	0.97
Speer 124 GDHP	1,232	0.75
Winchester 147 SXT	955	0.85

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS  
BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST  
FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

Not just a fast-shooting pretty face, the Shadow Hawk is capable of excellent accuracy. In fact, it is capable of anything you could ask of a defensive pistol.

### LIGHTS OUT

There was never a doubt that the Nighthawk Shadow Hawk would be a great performer. The pistol displayed all the attributes I've come to expect from Nighthawk Custom's pistols: quality, reliability, durability, accuracy and a great appearance. Add to that the inclusion of a quick-targeting, compact red-dot sight in the Trijicon RMR.

I still remember a non-Nighthawk pistolsmith telling me that burying a compact red-dot sight into the slide of a Model 1911-style pistol was impossible. Well, it appears he was wrong! Nighthawk has done just that—and with its usual flare and style.

But who would want or need such a pistol? Quite a few people. Anyone who appreciates Nighthawk Custom's work should be standing in line. Those who enjoy the latest, cutting-edge technology in firearms should also have their check-books out. Concealed carriers who prefer to use Model 1911s—and who want a concealable handgun offering enhanced capabilities and lifesaving properties—should run, not walk, to Nighthawk Custom in Berryville, Arkansas. For more information, call 877-423-4867 or visit [nighthawkcustom.com](http://nighthawkcustom.com).

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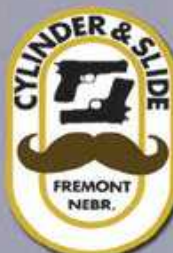
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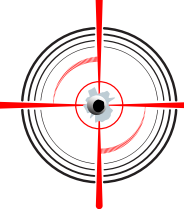
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# KAHR CW40 OVERHAUL



Cylinder & Slide revamped the author's Kahr CW40, and the results have made it one of his favorite CCW pistols.

**Cylinder & Slide tricks out an EDC favorite for enhanced compact CCW protection!** BY WILLIAM BELL

**I'VE BEEN CARRYING** my trusty Kahr CW40 around for several years and have never had any cause to doubt its accuracy or reliability. It's a rhetorical question, but can something that is already good be made better? Indubitably! Enter Cylinder & Slide, or C&S.

C&S President Bill Laughridge started the ball rolling in 1978, and for some 37 years the company has done one-at-a-time custom work on single-action (SA) pistols like the 1911 and Browning Hi-Power; double-action/single-action (DA/SA) pistols from the likes of Beretta, Glock, Kahr, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson and Walther; plus DA and SA revolvers from Colt, Ruger, S&W and Taurus. Cylinder & Slide's work includes action tuning, accuracy and reliability enhancements, custom sights, grips and many other services. Cylinder & Slide also produces its own line of custom parts for the 1911 pistol, the Browning Hi-Power and S&W revolvers. Further, the company sells and installs parts from other custom manufacturers on customer handguns. To top it off, C&S also offers custom pistolsmithing classes and a catalog with many other gun-related products.

## ● BASELINE TESTS

My first order of business was to perform a "before" test on my Kahr CW40 pistol. Prior to this project, it had experienced no custom work—just a lot of shooting and use. It oftentimes wears an aftermarket laser sight, and Talon

Grips decal-style granulate panels are installed on the sides of the grip frame to aid in rapid-fire shooting. I selected three different brands of cartridges in .40 S&W to use in my shooting tests. I prefer heavier bullets for optimal penetration in short-barrel handguns like the Kahr, which has a 3.6-inch barrel with 1-in-16-inch, right-hand-twist rifling.

At the range, I ran all the test ammunition through my chronograph to see what kind of velocity I'd get with the 3.6-inch barrel on the Kahr. Next, I placed my target stand out at the 15-yard line and, using a sandbag rest, shot three 5-shot groups with each of the .40 test loads. The best official group of the day measured 1.93 inches with the Remington-UMC JHP load; it also had the best average group size at 2.48 inches. I had quite a time with the "4+1 Syndrome" that day and had a nice four-shot cluster at 1.17 inches with the Speer GDHP until shot number five opened it up to 3.38 inches. The same was the case with the DoubleTap ammo, with a four-shot group at 1.89 inches that expanded to 3.71 inches with shot number five. I found that holding my point of aim at 5 o'clock of the black oval placed the shots almost directly in the red center oval. No malfunctions of any kind were recorded.

Next, I put on an open-top, pancake-style belt holster on the strong side, paired with a single magazine pouch on the left side for a practical shooting test. I used a 30-round combat qualification course that starts at 3 yards, then

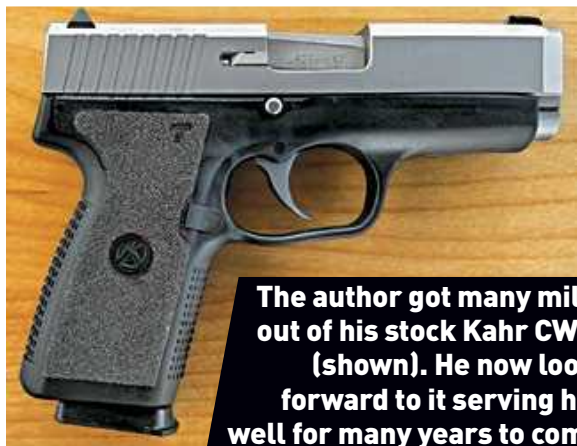
goes to 7 yards and ends at the 15-yard barricade. Shooting was conducted with strong- and support-hand-only shooting, double-taps, a body armor drill as well as standing and kneeling barricade shooting. I used the Remington-UMC .40 cartridges, and when the smoke cleared, using the scoring rings on the B-27 silhouette target, I'd scored 293-12X out of a possible 300.

## ● TO THE SHOP

Now it was time to let C&S do its "Kahr Package #1" magic—re-crowning the barrel at 11 degrees to enhance accuracy; throating and polishing the feed ramp and tensioning the extractor for reliability; a trigger action job; modifying the frame to assure mags drop freely; beveling the ejection port for clean ejection; and a sight check and test fire. The pistolsmith also suggested a trigger radius and polishing, a "carry bevel" on the slide stop, modifying the frame for improved magazine drop, and 360-degree stippling on the grip.

I got the CW40 back from C&S about three weeks later. The first thing I noted was the beat-up polymer front sight that had been on the gun was replaced by C&S with a fiber-optic front sight dovetailed into the slide. The company also put the C&S logo on the left side of the slide and "Cylinder & Slide" on the right side of the slide. The grip stippling was very neatly done and was both attractive and highly functional. The magazine release had some frame material around





**The author got many miles out of his stock Kahr CW40 (shown). He now looks forward to it serving him well for many years to come.**

it dished out, which made it seem like the button itself was a bit longer. C&S also replaced the followers on the magazines I'd sent with the gun. Last but not least, the green fiber-optic front sight was enclosed in a metal framework, making it much sturdier than the original front sight, and the green dot worked famously with the white bar below the rear sight notch for an eye-catching sight picture.

### 🎯 TEST DRIVE

Using the same ammo as before, I again shot three 5-shot groups at 15 yards from the bench. Point of aim/point of impact was very well regulated holding at 6 o'clock of the red aiming circle of the target. This time the best group measured 1.30 inches using the DoubleTap cartridges, and this load provided the

best group average at 1.55 inches. The Rem-UMC ammo was very close with a best group of 1.53 inches and the Speer GDHP had a best five-shot cluster of 2.11 inches. The "4+1 Syndrome" was not nearly as pronounced during this follow-up test at the range.

Again, I put on my pancake-type holster, mag pouch and then went back through the 30-round combat course. While my score with the Remington-UMC ammo was slightly better this time at 296-15X out of a possible 300, I found that overall the "pattern" of the shots was much tighter both in the center-mass area and the head of the B-27 silhouette.

Again, I laud the improved sight picture and trigger action, which felt smoother and lighter, breaking clean with no overtravel, and this time my thumb didn't hit the slide stop. In fact, the beveled slide stop had no sharp corners to catch the thumb, holster or clothing. Mags dropped free and the rather snappy recoil in rapid fire was easily controlled by the stippled grip.

Since my second round of testing was being done on a range that had some steel targets, I pulled my car around to where I could use it for cover and did some practical shooting exercises at a swinging steel circle at about 10 yards. I

### ▶ PERFORMANCE

#### CYLINDER & SLIDE/ KAHR CW40 .40 S&W

LOAD	VELOCITY	BEST STOCK	BEST CUSTOM
DoubleTap 180 JHP	1,055	3.71	1.30
Remington 180 JHP	973	1.93	1.55
Speer 165 Gold Dot HP	1,097	3.38	2.11

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 15 YARDS.

fired from the front of the car, from the top near the windshield and from around the rear of the car. Hits were registered on the 8-inch-diameter steel plate with outstanding regularity with all of the test loads. All magazine changes were quickly accomplished, the sights were easily acquired, a firm grip was maintained, and all with zero malfunctions.

I was very satisfied overall with Cylinder & Slide's custom work on this pistol and the improved performance that I felt the company had provided to my ever-reliable Kahr CW40. **CH**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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# DAN WESSON 357 KNOCKOUT

Barrel-swap versatile, dead-nuts accurate and designed to devour recoil, the 715 kicks off DW's revolver revival! BY CLAIR REES PHOTOS BY JOHN REES



The author's original 15-2 (left) is still running strong. The "next-gen" 715 (right) shows a ton of promise for a long future in the author's collection.





The silhouettes must fall over (or be knocked from their base) to register a score. Accuracy was essential, and the new Dan Wesson soon gained a reputation of winning at this demanding sport.

Instead of being located at the rear of the cylinder, the cylinder lock is located immediately ahead of the cylinder on the cylinder yoke. This positioning allows your right thumb to fill the vacant space where the cylinder lock is found on other double-action (DA) revolvers. Another advantage to this design is that you can hold the gun in one hand while opening and loading the cylinder.

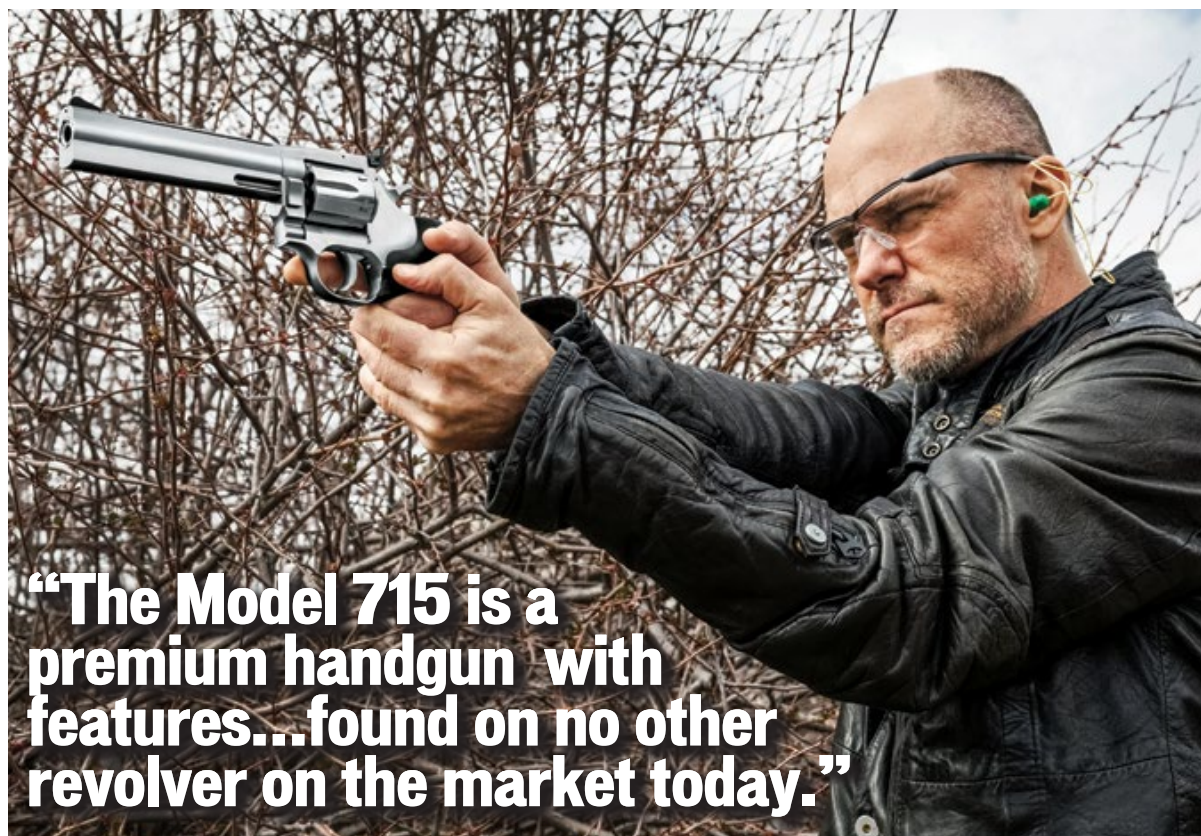
Locking the cylinder at the front also contributes to very precise cylinder timing, producing superior accuracy. Adding to the Dan Wesson accuracy, the barrel is “stretched” between two stationary anchors, creating some advantageous harmonics not found in any other revolver on the market.

I was sufficiently impressed by Dan

SPECIFICATIONS	
DAN WESSON MODEL 715	
Caliber	.357 Magnum (.38 Special)
Barrel	6 inches
OA Length	11.5 inches
Weight	46 ounces (empty)
Grips	Rubber
Sights	Front ramp, adjustable rear
Action	DA/SA
Finish	Stainless
Capacity	6
MSRP	\$1,168

**BACK IN THE EARLY 1970s**, I tested the then-new Dan Wesson Model 15-2 revolver. The gun featured a ground-breaking design. Instead of permanently attaching the barrel to the receiver, the barrel was surrounded by a full-length shroud and an underlug anchored under tension from both ends—muzzle and receiver. The bore narrowed slightly toward the muzzle, creating a tight fit that helped the outstanding accuracy this gun soon became famous for.

At that time, silhouette shooting was extremely popular. This was done with open-sighted handguns that were then used to topple steel animal cutouts weighing as much as 60 pounds. The steel plates mimic the life-sized outlines of chickens, pigs, turkeys and sheep, all placed at varying distances downrange.



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**DAN WESSON MODEL 715**



The hammer is easy to reach and manipulate. Note the contrasting adjustable rear sight.



The revolver was accurate and easy to handle all the way out to 50 yards.



The rear of the cylinder is recessed for safety and consistency.

Wesson's .357 Model 15-2 revolver (at the time, it was offered only in a blued finish) and I purchased the gun for my own collection. One of my sons openly coveted it, so I later gave it to him as a Christmas present. It remains one of his favorite handguns.

Much later, I ordered a .44 Magnum Pistol Pack—a stainless steel version with an 8-inch barrel with two interchangeable shrouds. This allowed me to quickly switch from open sights to the 4x scope I'd mounted on the extra shroud. When my gun arrived from the factory, it bore my initials "CFR" in place of a conventional serial number. This .44 Magnum revolver has accounted for a number of deer and still holds a place of pride in my collection.

Now owned entirely by CZ-USA, Dan Wesson revolvers are making a serious comeback. If the test sample I received for testing is any indication, the company (and its guns) are here to stay!

**● NEXT-GEN WHEELGUN**

The Dan Wesson I've been putting through its paces is a Model 715—a heavy-barreled, stainless steel upgrade of the Model 15-2 I first received all

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PERFORMANCE		
DAN WESSON MODEL 715 .357 MAGNUM		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 158 JHP	1,310	2.75
Black Hills 158 Cowboy Action	860	2.75
Remington 125 JHP	1,510	2.87
Winchester 158 JSP	1,289	2.62
BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YARDS.		

those years ago. Like the Model 15-2, the new gun chambers .357 Magnum and .38 Special ammo. How new is this gun? The serial number on the test sample that was sent to me was DW000045.

Right now, the gun is shipped with a 6-inch barrel and an HV6 shroud with a heavy, ventilated rib. Other barrels and shrouds are available. The gun comes housed in a sturdy Dan Wesson hard case with compartments to accommodate three extra barrel/shroud assemblies. There's also a special wrench for switching barrels and a feeler gauge to make sure the barrel-to-cylinder gap is properly spaced.

“The stainless steel finish is virtually flawless, no machine markings are evident anywhere...”

That small, thin piece of equipment is important. If you don't religiously use it when you install a new barrel, chances are the gap between the barrel and cylinder will be too large, creating excessive headspace. When this happens, bits of brass and lead will be blasted sideways when the gun is fired, peppering your hand with the hot gasses and painful particles that escape. Conversely, if the barrel is too close to the cylinder, heat created by firing will soon cause the gun to lock up. That little shim is vital to reliable operation.

While readily interchangeable barrels are a Dan Wesson hallmark, the versatility doesn't end there. Grips are attached to the frame via a single, sturdy



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## DAN WESSON MODEL 715



Like its groundbreaking predecessor, the Model 15-2 (below), shooters can install various barrels on the Model 715 with optics already mounted and zeroed for special purposes. Today, grips can also be swapped out for shooting comfort and recoil reduction.



screw. Unscrew this and you can swap out a new grip in a matter of seconds. The Model 715 comes with a hand-filling, rubberized grip with ergonomic finger grooves. This grip feels very comfortable in my hand, and it does a good job of minimizing felt recoil. Other grips available include both rubber and wooden handles of a more conventional shape.

Another thing that sets the Model 715 apart is its standard sighting equipment. Instead of the virtually universal three-dot sights, this gun features honest-to-goodness target sights. The micro-adjustable rear sight is massive compared to the sights found on most concealed-carry handguns, and it presents a massive wall of dead black and a 0.125-inch-wide, sharply squared sighting notch. There are no tritium inserts or other unnecessary additions, simply a beautifully functional target sight.

The tall front blade, which is also

black, is also 0.125 inches wide. It's easily visible as you look through the rear sight notch. This gun isn't designed for combat or self-defense, although it would fill those roles admirably.

Instead of recessing each chamber individually, the entire rear face of the cylinder is recessed, achieving the same safety function. The cylinder rotates clockwise, and it locks up tightly with no evident play when the gun is cocked and ready to fire.

The stainless steel finish is virtually flawless—no machine markings are evident anywhere, including the inside of the frame when the cylinder is pivoted to the loading position. This is a sturdy gun that weighs in at a solid 46 ounces. The DA trigger is smooth with the barest hint of stacking. It weighs in at an estimated 9.5 pounds. The single-action trigger breaks at a crisp 4.5 pounds. There's also an adjustable trigger stop mounted just behind the trigger.



The target-style micro-adjustable rear sight sports a 0.125-inch-wide squared sighting notch that creates a "make-no-mistakes" view to the front blade.

### KEEPING IT REAL


Because no external support is allowed in handgun silhouette shooting, I did my target work shooting from a squatting position at a range of 50 yards. I rested my elbow on my knee, which gave me a stable stance. You see a lot of different shooting styles at a handgun silhouette match, wherever every shooter is looking for the position that gives him or her the best chance to achieve a high score.

I used four different factory loads, and all delivered satisfactory performance. Winchester 158-grain jacketed soft points delivered five-shot groups that measured 2.62 inches across.

All the ammunition I used delivered good accuracy. The combination of the hand-filling rubber grip, the 6-inch barrel with a heavy, ventilated rib (making the gun slightly muzzle heavy) and a solid 46 ounces of heft (unloaded) made the Dan Wesson easy to control. The black target sights were a big plus. The SA trigger was crisp, and the hammer fell smoothly with every shot. For long-range shooting precision, this gun would be hard to beat.

### FINAL SHOTS

Like my old Dan Wesson 15-2, this 715 is here to stay. The test gun I used is of obvious high quality, and it delivered excellent long-range accuracy. The Model 715 is a premium handgun with features like readily interchangeable barrels and easy-to-swap grips found on no other revolver on the market today.

While the 6-inch barrel my gun came equipped with is a great all-around choice that works well for silhouette competition, installing a 4-inch tube would make this a handier holster gun. Going to an 8-inch or even a 10-inch barrel would add extra heft and steadiness for shots at longer distances. Though not a preference of mine, a 2.5-inch barrel is also an option for compact carry. I look forward to seeing what other models Dan Wesson introduces in the near future. For more information, visit [cz-usa.com](http://cz-usa.com) or call 800-955-4486. 



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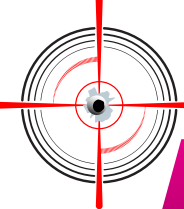
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**LADIES ONLY**

# ARMED & AWARE

**Build confidence and skills to stop a real-world attacker with two days of training at FTA.** **BY** EDIE KING FASANO

**A BRUTAL ATTACK DURING A HOME INVASION.** A car-jacking and a subsequent rape. A woman attacked while jogging near her home in a gated community. These common headlines emphasize the absolute need for self-defense skills in today's society.

Firearms Training Associates (FTA) offers a specially designed course for women of all abilities and ages, to teach them how to protect themselves and their families. FTA's Ladies Pistol & Self-Defense course takes a decidedly proactive approach to teaching self-defense. The two-day course covers a broad range of self-defense subjects, from the proper use and safe handling of a handgun to learning and applying effective self-defense techniques.

Even if you haven't touched a handgun before, this course will ensure you become comfortable and confident with one. Experienced shooters would also benefit from this course. The classroom discussions, range time, drills and self-defense sessions all serve to reinforce the proper techniques, enabling everyone to take their skills to the next level and into the real world.

## 🎯 NEW MINDSET

I am fortunate to live near FTA's Corona, California, facility, where we had exclusive use of two air-conditioned classrooms and three ranges for the weekend. FTA also offers this course in Nevada at its state-of-the-art facility that's located 25 minutes off the Las Vegas strip.

On Day One, we met our team—and they really are a team. The camaraderie and respect was evident from the moment they stepped to the front of the room. Each team member was introduced along with a description of their qualifications and their years at the FTA. The wide variety of backgrounds was impressive, including individuals from law enforcement, military, government agencies, competition and private training facilities. Many instructors have Gunsite instructor/range master certifications as well as California teaching credentials.



GINA SWARR PHOTO



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**LADIES ONLY**



**“The classroom discussions...drills and self-defense sessions all serve to reinforce the proper techniques, enabling everyone to take their skills to the next level...”**

Introductions weren't limited to instructors. Each student was asked to introduce herself and explain why she was taking the course. Their reasons for taking the course varied—some were experts who already owned handguns; one woman is training to be an NRA instructor; others have family members in law enforcement and wanted to be comfortable with the guns in the house; some were new gun owners; while some had never shot a gun and wanted to learn more about self-defense. One woman readily admitted she was extremely uncomfortable just looking at the training pistols and revolvers laid out on the table at the front of the classroom.

Lead Instructor Ben Romero used our comments, experiences and concerns to cultivate a friendly and relaxed classroom environment. He began with the four rules of gun safety, making it clear that safety is job number one. Romero went on to clearly explain and demonstrate the steps we would be learning on the range throughout the course.

### 🎯 STEP TO THE LINE

Once outside on the range, Range Officer Steve Craig outfitted the ladies who were borrowing equipment. We donned our belts, holstered our handguns (unloaded) as well as a couple of loaded magazines. We worked in two groups. While one group executed practice drills, the other reloaded while watching from a safe distance. After a discussion with the entire class, the next group headed to the line. The pace was relaxed; the alternating sets gave us students time to absorb the information, and it created a nice flow to the day without being hectic.

The experience of Steve Craig and the other instructors was evident as they helped us with the myriad of details, from finding the proper stance to the steps for drawing and aiming our weapons while remaining aware of our surroundings. They demonstrated a strong understanding of how to properly teach us both fundamental and advanced techniques in one setting.

The ratio of instructors to students (there were 20) was 1-to-2 during our class, ensuring every student received personalized attention. The ratio on the day of the course varies depending on class size and the number of additional instructors who volunteer. FTA strives for an instructor-to-student ratio of between 1-to-3 and 1-to-5.

Day One was rainy and drawing from a holster was new to me. Metal and polymers become slippery when wet, so I really appreciated the stippled grip on my Glock 17 courtesy of Taran Tactical Innovations. My new Blade-Tech Competition Speed Belt, with two mag pouches and a black, carbon-fiber holster for my Glock, was comfortable and easy to adjust. The drills helped me find the proper positioning for my gear and I quickly learned the techniques.

### 🎯 CONFIDENT CARRY

By the end of Day One, everyone was comfortable with the proper handling and use of their handguns. Tomorrow would be the true test—moving from activity to activity while carrying loaded pistols in our holsters.

We headed directly to the range the morning of Day Two where we continued to develop our marksmanship and

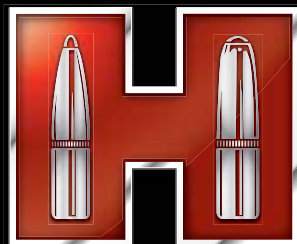


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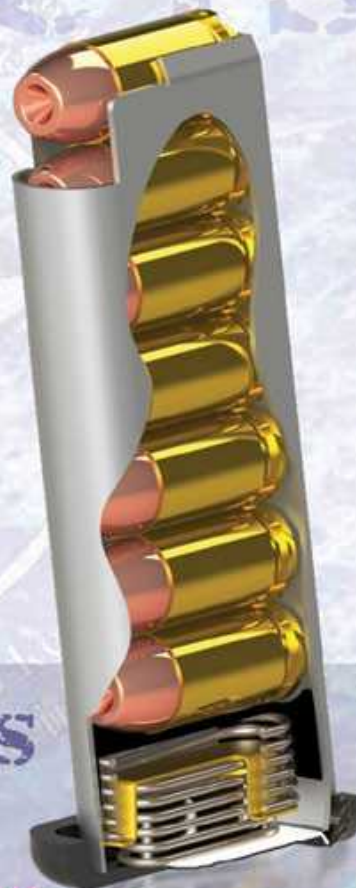
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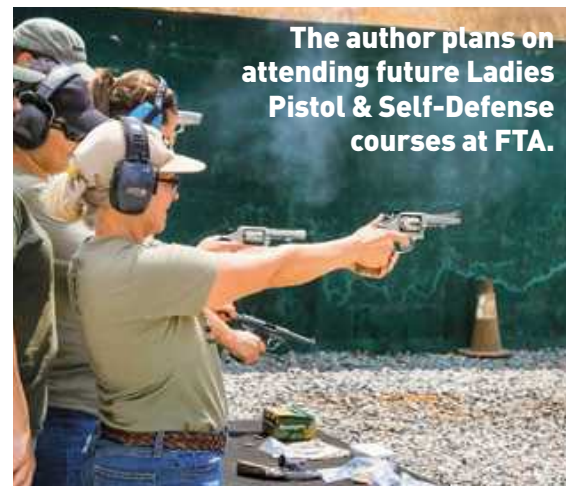
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## LADIES ONLY



The author plans on attending future Ladies Pistol & Self-Defense courses at FTA.

situational awareness. Everyone needed a refresher on the steps to make ready, draw, fire, scan and holster our hand-guns. It dispelled any doubts we had regarding the need to dry-fire practice these techniques in a safe area at home. "Use it or lose it!"

We were divided into three teams and rotated between the three ranges to practice specific drills that included clearing malfunctions, Mozambique drills, shooting on the move and ammo management. Steel targets were a real boost to the psyche—draw, take aim, fire and hear that "clang" as you watch the target dance. Steve Craig said, "It keeps you honest!" The most heart-pounding exercise came from shooting on the move. These drills evoked the feeling of a real-life situation.

## BEYOND THE GUNS

After lunch, the focus turned to unarmed self-defense techniques and applying situational awareness to real-life situations. This included how to make your home unattractive to a burglar; the value of a flashlight and where to keep one (purse, car, bedside table, etc.); how to use a knife to protect yourself and how to defend against one; how to carry and use pepper spray; the different methods for escaping various holds; and the most effective areas to hit or kick to disable your attacker and escape.

Each student receives a detailed manual prepared by FTA that includes sections on regulations for the use of firearms in defense of life and property. It is important to familiarize yourself with the local laws regarding firearms and the use of self-defense tactics. Some states have stiff penalties if there is a viable means of escape and you employ self-defense tactics, injuring your attacker. While it is best to use your skills to get away safely, if a confrontation arises, you don't want to be the one in trouble in the eyes of the law. For more, visit [ftatv.com](http://ftatv.com) or call 714-701-9918.

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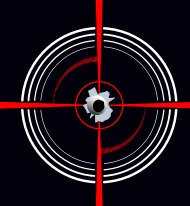
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WIDTH 1.3 INCHES

HEIGHT 4.5 INCHES



Modern technology has given the LCR a better grip, far more manageable recoil and better overall handling.

**CALIBER**  
.38 Special

**BARREL**  
1.875 inches

**OAL LENGTH**  
6.5 inches

**WEIGHT**  
13.5 ounces  
(EMPTY)

**GRIP**  
Hogue Tamer  
Monogrip

**SIGHTS**  
Front ramp,  
rear notch

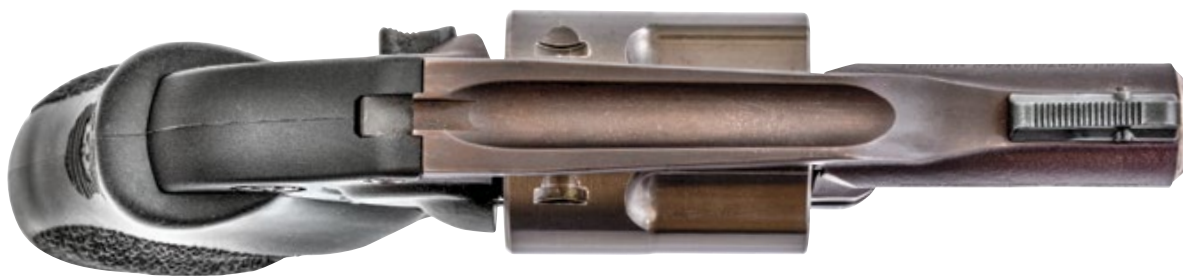
**ACTION**  
DAO

**FINISH**  
Ionbond  
Diamondblack

**CAPACITY**  
5

**MSRP**  
\$545

OAL 6.5 INCHES



## Past meets present as two elite snub-nose .38 Specials square off on the range!

BY DENNIS ADLER

**WHEN ONE CHOSE TO CARRY A SMALL,** self-defense pistol back in the 1950s, the variety of "top of the line" handguns gave you two excellent .38-caliber options. The first was the Colt Detective Special, introduced in 1927 (also later the c.1934 Banker's Special, the very sharp looking 1950s Cobra, followed by the smaller-gripped c.1960s Colt Agent). The second choice in concealed-carry wheelguns was the Smith & Wesson Chief's Special and Chief's Special Airweight (later the Model 36 and Model 37), the Bodyguard Airweight (later the Model 38), and the

very slick hammerless Centennial and Centennial Airweights (later the Model 40 and Model 42). The S&Ws, however, which all came about in the 1950s, were built on the S&W J-Frame and were five-shot repeaters. The much older Colts held a one-round advantage with their sixgun cylinders.

Fast-forward to the 21st century and snub-nose revolvers are still around, which is an impressive fact in itself. The Colts, however, are long gone and have become collectible, while S&W has continued to advance the technology and

produce a full line of compact revolvers. But S&W is only one among a vast field of small-frame .38 Specials available today, with the technology leader being the Ruger LCR.

With this in mind, let's see how this new-tech, polymer-framed five-shooter stacks up against old-school, all-metal standard-bearers like Colt's Agent, the smallest of the famed Detective Special-based wheelguns.

### COLT AGENT

Back in 1926, Colt offered a 2-inch-barreled version of the Police Positive called the Special. Two years later it would become a separate model, the Detective Special, a handgun that remained in production in its pre-war form from 1927 to 1946, and in slightly modified post-war second, third and fourth issues from 1947 to 1995.

The Detective Special originally had a square-butt grip, but in 1933 it was rounded off. The Agent was essentially



# THE TAPE

## COLT AGENT

**CALIBER**  
.38 Special

**BARREL**  
2 inches

**OAL LENGTH**  
6.5 inches

**WEIGHT**  
14 ounces  
(EMPTY)

**GRIP**  
Wood

**SIGHTS**  
Front blade

**ACTION**  
DA/SA

**FINISH**  
Blued

**CAPACITY**  
6

**MSRP**  
\$71.50 ('62 COLT  
ADVERTISING);  
\$500 to \$800  
(CURRENT VALUE  
IN 95% TO 100%  
CONDITION)

WIDTH 1.25 INCHES

HEIGHT 4.25 INCHES

The Agent's short grip frame made it a highly concealable undercover revolver. Note how the grips overlap the frame.

OAL 6.5 INCHES

a Detective Special built for more covert carry with a shorter, 2.5-inch, finely checkered, square-butt, walnut grip that barely allowed enough depth for the second and third fingers to grasp it. A high-cut triggerguard helped but punished the shooter's middle finger unless the Agent was properly held. The shorter grip made the gun easier to conceal but harder to control than the standard Detective Special or Cobra models. It was accurate enough at close range with then-current .38 Special cartridges but not exactly pleasant on the shooting range after about 50 rounds. The Agent weighed a mere 14 ounces and, like the rest of the line, carried six rounds over a comparable Smith & Wesson revolver's five. The original version was manufactured from 1962 to 1972.

In overall length, the pocket-friendly Colt six-shooter measured 6.5 inches,

4.25 inches in height and had a cylinder 1.25 inches in width. Being a traditional double-action/single-action revolver, the Agent was a good deal more accurate with the hammer cocked, but never as easy to handle as the Detective Special.

### ● RUGER LCR

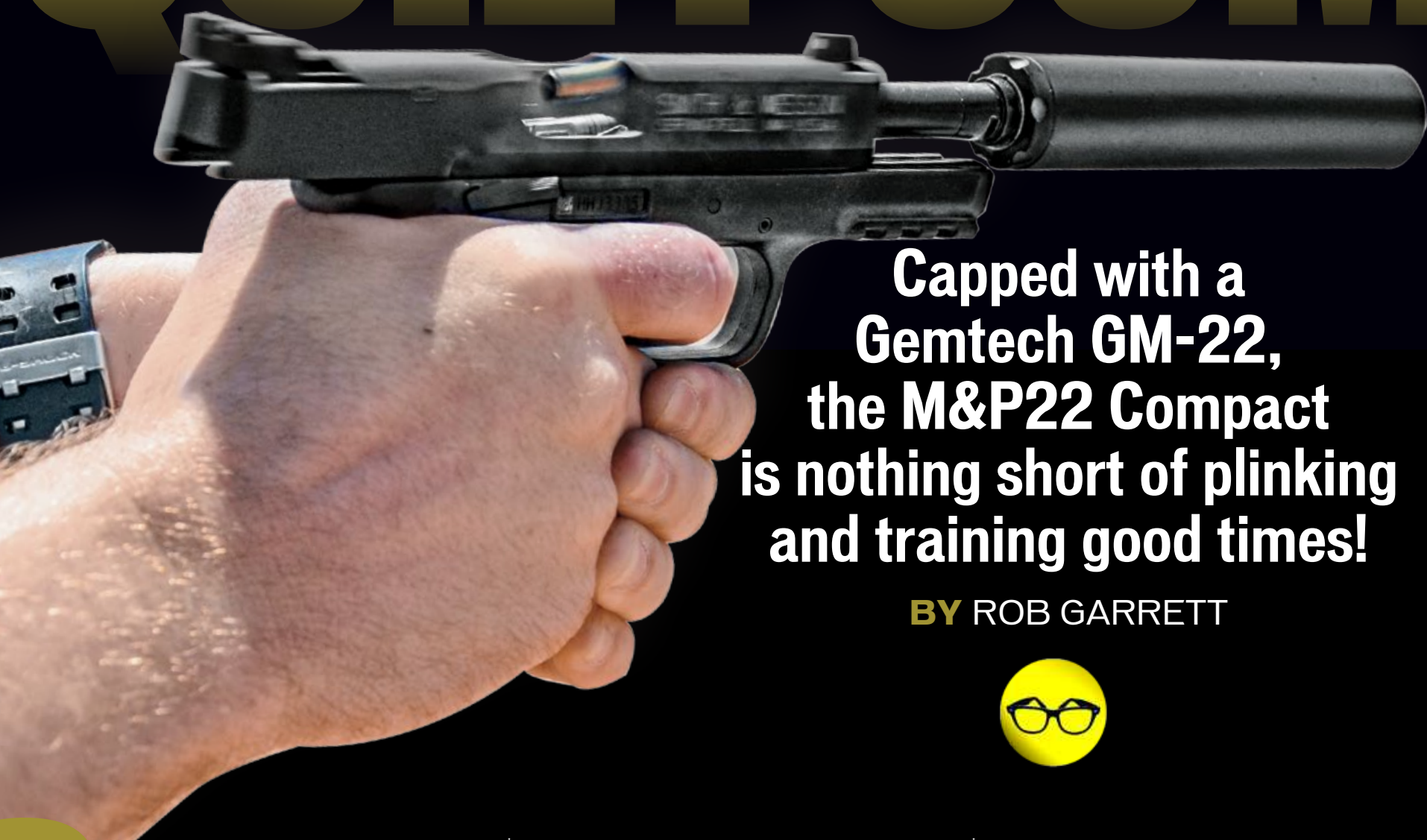
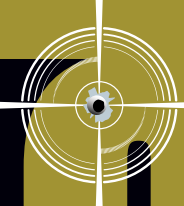
At the point in time when Sturm, Ruger & Co. embarked on developing the LCR, the company took everything, aside from the dynamics of a revolver's operation, and tossed it out the window. An LCR is comprised of three major components—a blackened stainless steel cylinder frame and barrel assembly (with the barrel shroud as an integral part of the

frame); a polymer fire control housing containing the trigger and triggerguard, the hammer, the sear and the main-spring; and the stainless steel cylinder/crane sub-assembly. Large Hogue Tamer rubber grips are secured by a single, integrated grip peg and held with a long screw through the base.

The contoured rubber grips provide plenty of grasping surface and the triggerguard design places that once vulnerable knuckle of the middle finger within the protective area of the grip. The fully shrouded hammer also streamlines the Ruger for trouser or jacket pocket carry with no edges to catch on fabric. (There were enough diehards demand-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 78 ►





## Capped with a Gemtech GM-22, the M&P22 Compact is nothing short of plinking and training good times!

BY ROB GARRETT



**OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS,** the volatile trends in the ammunition market have had a serious impact on the shooting public. The only thing consistent about these trends is that they have been inconsistent. Who would have ever thought that .22 LR ammunition would be next to impossible to find and that a brick would sell for upwards of \$75? Thankfully, the situation has improved for major retailers and online distributors. The prices, while not at 2010 levels, have returned to “reasonable” levels.

The benefits of .22 LR pistols and rifles are well known to the shooting community and firearm manufacturers. A rimfire makes a great training pistol for beginners as well as helps experienced shooters practice fundamentals. Smith & Wesson has long realized the potential for quality pistols and revolvers chambered in .22 LR and .22 Magnum. Both

the Model 17 (K-22) revolver and the Model 41 pistol are legendary for their quality and accuracy. In recent years, the popularity of the centerfire M&P series of pistols led S&W to produce a .22 LR version.

### ELITE RIMFIRE

The M&P22 Compact is perhaps the best .22 LR autoloader on the market today. S&W first took the standard M&P and shrunk it by approximately 15 percent. This makes the M&P22 Compact the perfect size at 7.25 inches in length and 5.03 inches in height. The overall weight of the pistol is 15.3 ounces. As with its big brother, the M&P22 Compact features a polymer frame that retains the same profile as the centerfire M&Ps. This includes the same trigger geometry, grip texture and accessory rail. The operating controls include a well-designed ambi-

dextrous thumb safety and a reversible magazine release. The .22 version of the M&P only lacks the ambidextrous slide release.

The slide is constructed from aluminum alloy and finished in a hardcoat black anodizing. Internally, the recoil spring is a captured system for easier disassembly and assembly. A magazine safety is standard on the M&P22s, and the metal, 10-round magazines are well designed. A thumb tab on the side of the magazine assists the user in depressing the follower during loading. Unlike the centerfire M&P pistols, the .22 versions are hammer-fired, not striker-fired. The trigger pull on the sample I tested averaged 5.75 pounds.

One area where many .22 LR pistols are lacking is sights. I found the M&P22 sights exceptionally easy to see and index. The front sight is dovetailed



# PAGE RIOT

into the slide instead of staked, which makes it durable and easy to replace. The rear sight is also dovetailed and is fully adjustable for elevation. Windage adjustments are made by drifting the front sight. A three-dot white pattern is standard on the pistol to improve visibility and sight alignment.

Smith & Wesson has recognized the tremendous growth in the NFA market and, in particular, the suppressor market. Once considered exotic, suppressors have now entered the mainstream of the shooting market. The latest version of the M&P22 Compact is a suppressor-ready pistol with a threaded barrel. The barrel on the new Suppressor Ready

model measures 3.56 inches in length and features 1/2x28 threading, allowing it to accept most rimfire sound suppressors. The adaptor is threaded on to the barrel and must be removed for cleaning prior to disassembly.

### CAN-DO COMPACT

I selected the new Gemtech GM-22 suppressor for evaluation with the M&P22 Compact. The GM-22 features Gemtech's new G-Core. The G-Core is a monocoire baffle core that was designed using the latest computational fluid dynamics (CFD) software. The CFD software allows the core to be designed, modified and tested in a digital environment. The monolithic baffle is machined from a solid block of 7075 aluminum. The angle and dimensions of each baffle are specifically designed for maximum gas and heat dispersal. The GM-22 has a 1-inch diameter, is 5 inches in length and weighs a mere 2.5 ounces. Rated for .22

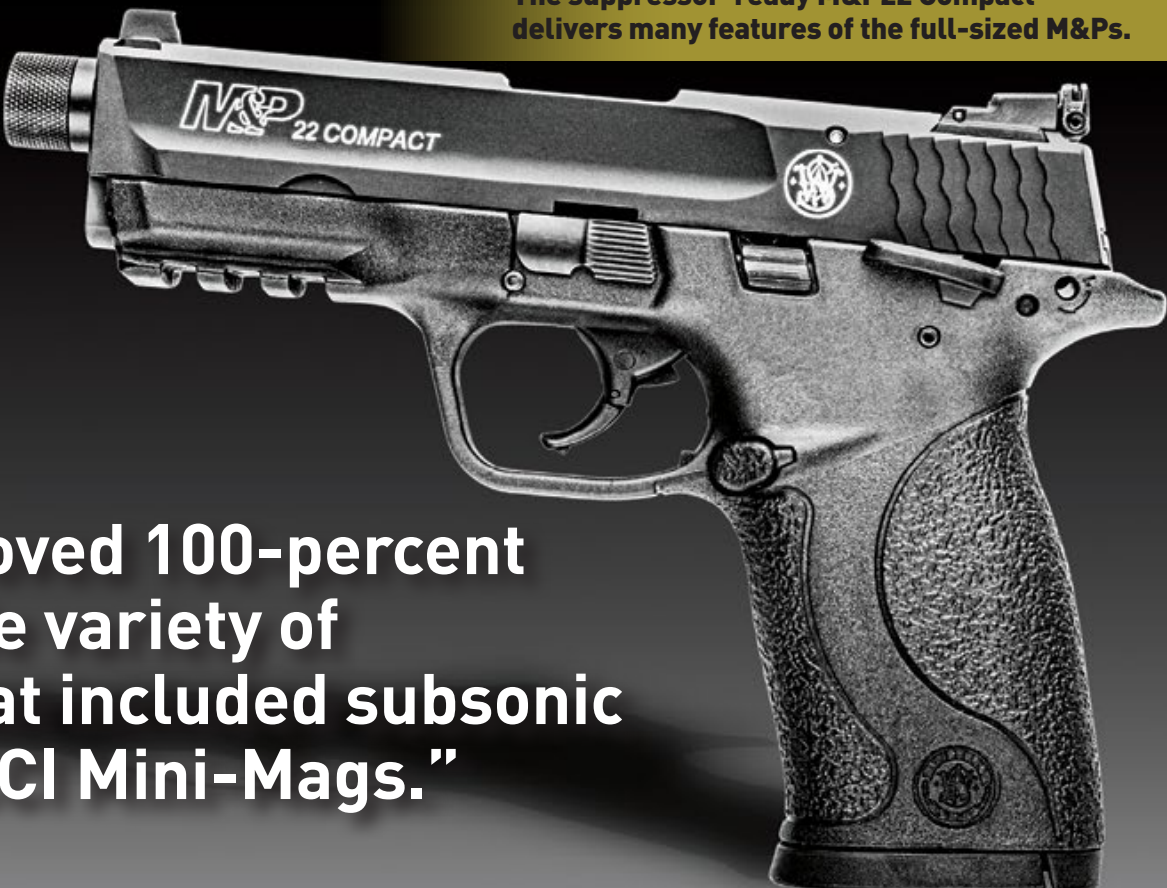
LR, .22 WMR and .17 HMR ammunition, Gemtech data indicates that the GM-22 achieves a 36- to 39-decibel (dB) reduction in sound.

The GM-22 is a user-serviceable suppressor. The end cap features the Gemtech logo and the square bore allows the use of a socket to disassemble the unit. This allows the user to clean the carbon fouling that builds up in the baffles. It should be noted that a dirty suppressor is actually quieter than a clean one. In internal durability testing, 5,000 rounds were fired through a GM-22. At the end of the test, the GM-22 was easily disassembled and there was no noticeable wear or corrosion of the key components.

During the first trip to the range, we found that the GM-22's 2.5-ounce weight actually has a minimal effect on the balance of the pistol. An additional advantage is that the suppressor's 1-inch-diameter tube did not obstruct the sights.

SPECIFICATIONS	
SMITH & WESSON M&P22 COMPACT SUPPRESSOR	
Caliber	.22 LR
Barrel	3.56 inches
OA Length	7.25 inches
Weight	15.3 ounces (empty)
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Three-dot, adjustable rear
Action	SA
Finish	Matte black
Capacity	10+1
MSRP	\$409

The suppressor-ready M&P22 Compact delivers many features of the full-sized M&Ps.



“The little pistol proved 100-percent reliable with a wide variety of ammunition that included subsonic loads and the hot CCI Mini-Mags.”



## S&W M&P22 COMPACT SUPPRESSOR



The three-dot sights are easy to pick up and provide a clean sight picture. The 10-round mag (far right) has a lever for easy loading.



**“The M&P22 Compact exceeded our expectations. It fits the hand well, is reliable and exudes fun.”**

The initial rounds through the GM-22 were louder than I had expected until I remembered I was shooting a brand new suppressor that had a new and clean baffle core. As the round count increased, the Gemtech GM-22 became quieter and the first-round *pop* decreased.

### 🎯 RANGE REPORT

During several range trips, we put close to 500 rounds through the M&P22 Compact Suppressor without cleaning or lubrication. The little pistol proved 100-percent reliable with a wide variety of ammunition that included subsonic

loads and the hot CCI Mini-Mags.

One thing about a .22 pistol with a suppressor is that the fun factor increases exponentially to the availability of ammunition. We ran through the first 200 rounds just having fun. The M&P22 Compact seemed to be a real tack driver when sniping debris on the backstop of the range. Golf-ball-sized targets, at 15 yards or so, never stood a chance.

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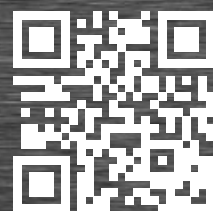
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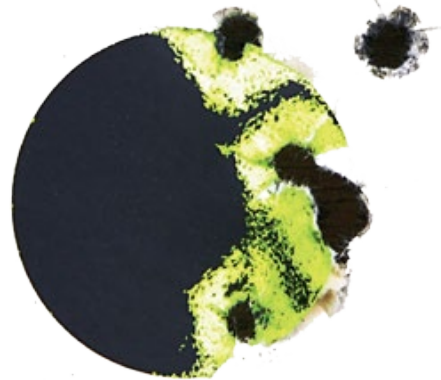
An accessory rail is molded into the frame for lights and lasers like the Crimson Trace CMR-206 shown.

The formal testing confirmed our first impressions. I selected three of my favorite .22 LR loads to test for velocity and accuracy at 7 yards. The Gemtech subsonic load we used averaged 855 fps and produced a group that measured 0.76 inches. CCI's 40-grain subsonic load has long been a favorite of suppressor owners for its consistency and accuracy, and it averaged 875 fps with a group that measured 0.83 inches. The final load I

tested was CCI's Mini-Mag, which averaged 989 fps and produced the smallest five-shot group of the afternoon, which measured a mere 0.59 inches.

I received a Crimson Trace CMR-206 Rail Master green laser just as I was completing this article. The CMR-206 is the newest compact, rail-mounted laser from Crimson Trace. The human eye processes the color green more than any other color, and the CMR-206 is the brightest green laser allowed by law. To say it is a significant improvement over red lasers is a dramatic understatement. The CMR-206 is clearly visible in daylight conditions well past the range of traditional red lasers. Powered by one CR2 lithium battery, the CMR-206 has a run time of over two hours and features an auto shut-off after five minutes. The Crimson Trace CMR-206 is a great addition for plinking, pest control or serious personal-defense situations.

The M&P22 Compact Suppressor fits the hand well, is reliable and exudes fun. I also came to realize that, while not optimal, the little .22 was capable of serving as a personal defense weapon for someone who is unable to manage a centerfire pistol. **GD**



**The M&P22 Compact Suppressor turned in tight groups at 7 yards.**

**PERFORMANCE**

**S&W M&P22 COMPACT SUPPRESSOR .22 LR**

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
CCI 40 Mini-Mag	1,003	0.59
CCI 40 Quiet-22	904	0.83
Gemtech 42 Subsonic	870	0.76

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 7 YARDS.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Crimson Trace**

crimsontrace.com; 800-442-2406

**Gemtech**

gem-tech.com; 208-939-7222

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# COOL CARRY

A collection of versatile and truly innovative EDC rigs you can trust to have by your side. BY JORGE AMSELLE

**IN THE OLD DAYS**, all you needed to slap iron was a tough piece of cow leather to hold your gun on your belt, and when things started to get fancy they added a snap. If you were cheap, you could just stick the gun in your belt holster-less. However, with new types of carry, both open and concealed, and new materials being introduced, the holster of yesterday has evolved into a complete system.

Like many gun owners, I have more than one handgun. When I carry concealed, I will switch which gun I have on me depending on what I am wearing and how I want to carry it. Each different gun means a different holster, and some of my guns also have lasers or lights on them, which means yet another holster. There are also universal holsters out there that have certainly been improving significantly. Here are some everyday-carry holster options that have “out of the box” thinking built right in!

## 🔴 24/7 PROTECTION

The Versacarry is an inside-the-waistband (IWB) concealed-carry system that is very nearly universal. It holds my gun

securely and comfortably in place and accommodates lights and lasers as well. The ingenuity of the system revolves around the barrel retention rod, which is made from a self-lubricating and tough polymer, that is inserted into the front of the barrel at a 45-degree angle and holds the pistol or revolver against the polymer clip. A polymer triggerguard is user installed in the retention clip for safety and can be set for right- or left-handed carry, and the integral belt clip fits up to 1.5-inch belts. The whole thing really does live up to its “Zero Bulk” name as it is one of the smallest and lightest IWB holsters you will find.

The holster’s one-piece belt clip and body comes in different lengths to accommodate pistols with barrel lengths from 2.75 inches to 4 inches. This keeps the grip above the belt line for an easy draw. If concealability is a priority, I found that using the longer Versacarry with a subcompact pistol completely hides the gun below the belt line.

As a welcome accessory, Versacarry also offers a spare IWB magazine holder with similar minimalist dimensions as

its holster. The magazine clip is designed for single- and double-stack magazines and provides retention with a clip at the bottom that holds the top cartridge on a magazine inserted baseplate up. Small tabs on the side keep the magazine properly oriented. This provides a secure



The innovative, low-profile Versacarry design holds your pistol by way of a barrel retention rod, and a polymer triggerguard can be installed by the user.



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hold with an easy release when the spare magazine is needed.

Recently, Versacarry also started offering high-quality leather gun belts available in a variety of colors and in either single- or double-ply for extra stiffness. A good gun belt keeps your holster from sagging or riding when you try to draw. It is an important part of your self-defense kit that is too often ignored. I found the Versacarry single-ply belt to be very durable, though I might opt for the two-ply belt for a full-sized gun.

Finally, the VersaHub Bedside Mounting System ties everything together and provides for personal protection in the home. Made from a durable polymer, the VersaHub slips between the mattress and boxspring and holds your gun and spare magazine in the Versacarry holster and magazine holder. This system keeps your CCW handgun conveniently at hand while you sleep.

**UNDERCOVER DEFENSE**

BlackHawk has developed a new IWB holster specifically designed for appendix carry. Appendix carry, which involves keeping the pistol in front of the body between bellybutton and hip, is growing

in popularity because it provides faster access and improved concealability, and some find it to be more comfortable.

The BlackHawk Appendix Reversible Carry (ARC) IWB Holster includes adjustable belt clips that allow it to be used on either the right or left side. These clips, which fit 1.5- and 1.75-inch belt sizes, can also be adjusted for cant and height to provide the user a more custom draw as well as improved comfort. BlackHawk has also used a softer polymer that offers more give and more comfort over a similar Kydex holster.

The holster's retention is also user adjustable with an adjustment screw that can be loosened or tightened to provide just the right feel. Given the popularity of rear-mounted, micro red-dot optics on many defensive handguns, the rear of the

ARC holster features an open design that allows for the unimpeded use of these types of optics.

**VERSATILE EDC**

Blade-Tech, which makes excellent polymer holsters for competition, duty and concealed-carry use, has a new system in the Total Eclipse line that offers a great deal of versatility for the end user. This holster can be carried in six different ways including on the waistband, inside the waistband, right- or left-handed and either with a straight drop or an FBI-style forward cant.

Like the Eclipse holster on which it is based, the Total Eclipse features a very thin pancake design that rides close to the body and provides a full grip of the pistol for a secure draw. It also features



**BlackHawk ARC  
IWB Holster**



**Blade-Tech Total  
Eclipse Holster**

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a full sweat guard to protect the firearm and increase comfort while carrying, and it offers a low-cut front opening for a faster draw. The friction retention is adjustable as well to suit user preference.

The Total Eclipse differs from its predecessor not just in its versatility but also in how the continuous curve design now includes the attachment system as well. With this holster you get all of the extras that make it fully adjustable, including the quick clip on-off system in the IWB mode. This makes removing and replacing the entire holster a very easy affair without having to remove the belt.


## 🔴 CARRY CLASSIC

Of course, just because we are modern people doesn't mean we can't still appreciate a fine piece of leatherwork.



Tagua Gunleather

Likewise, just because you are making a holster out of fine leather doesn't mean that you can't incorporate modern design elements. In this regard, Tagua Gunleather has accomplished quite a feat with its 4-in-1 Inside The Pant Holster.

This leather holster is available in black or brown, and either with or without a retainer thumb-break strap for added retention. What really sets the 4-in-1 Holster apart is that it can be carried inside the waistband or outside the waistband, appendix style as well as cross-draw and sideways in the small of the back. This versatility is accomplished without having to make any adjustments or change any tabs on the holster itself, and making life easier is a good thing. The secret is in the installed metal clip as well as the vertical, horizontal and canted belt loops on the opposite side. Both right- and left-handed holsters are available to fit your needs. 

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**BlackHawk**  
blackhawk.com; 800-379-1732

**Blade-Tech**  
blade-tech.com; 877-331-5793

**Tagua Gunleather**  
taguagunleather.com; 305-637-3014

**Versacarry**  
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Sig Sauer's MPX delivered a submachine gun for the 21st century, and the new pistol variant, the MPX-P, offers the same 9mm performance.



#### **TESTING THE SIG SAUER MPX**

submachine gun while at the Sig Sauer Academy a couple years back was a pleasure and pretty impressive overall. There was a ton of innovation in the MPX that made it a true next-generation subgun. With tens of thousands of rounds and hundreds of hours on an MP5, it brought back a ton of memories. Using AR ergonomics and controls, the operating system is weapon specific, using a fully locked, short-stroke pushrod gas system. Being a modular design, it can be configured with several stocks and handguards. Lancer Systems also designed the MPX's magazine from the ground up, ensuring reliability.

Subguns in 9mm are soft shooting, accurate and can be excellent entry or close-quarters weapons. They suppress well and can be very handy. While the select-fire switch is nice, they are just as effective as semi-auto short-barrel rifles (SBR) and many see them as perfect for home defense in the pistol configuration.

After completing my test of the prototype, I requested the pistol version, the





# SUB GUN WARRIOR

## Sig's MPX-P 9mm CQB dominator redefines home-defense firepower!

BY DAVID BAHDE

MPX-P, when it was finally made available. The plan was to test it as a pistol first and then register it as an SBR.

### COMPACT HOME DEFENDER

Configured with no stock, the Picatinny rail section at the rear the MPX-P is the perfect starting point for our examination. A QD sling swivel at the rear allows you to use it in a similar fashion to a personal-defense weapon (PDW). In a pistol configuration, you can add the Sig SB-15 Stabilizing Brace or similar devices. Register it as a short-barreled rifle (SBR) and you can add either a folding or collapsible stock. All else remains the same. The gun's safety, magazine and bolt releases are completely ambidextrous. The design even uses an AR-style charging handle.

The aluminum handguard is easily removed by pushing the front take-down pin to one side. Rails lock into place solidly at the 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions. Three short aluminum rails are supplied along with a forward hand stop. The top

rail is continuous and accepts any AR sights, red dots or optics. The gun also features front and rear flip-up sights.

The MPX-P was equipped with an interchangeable, 8-inch, coated barrel that includes the gas block. The barrel is capped with an A2-style flash suppressor and is threaded for 13.5x1 LH suppressor use. The MPX-P's top-feed magazines are polymer with metal feed lips. One 30-round magazine was included with my test gun, along with an Armageddon Gear single-point sling.

While you can certainly use iron sights on a pistol like this, the addition of a red-dot sight is preferred in my opinion. I added Aimpoint's newest Micro T-2 with a riser to allow me to co-witness the iron sights. Adjustable for use in any light condition or with night-vision equipment, the T-2 is rugged with a battery life measured in years.

Sig Sauer uses a metric left-hand threading on its pistols and rifles, allowing the company's suppressors to be used on either. This also makes it unlikely that you will thread the wrong

size suppressor on your weapon. Liberty Suppressors offers a ton of adapters for its Mystic X, and I used one for this test. I've previously used this suppressor on several weapons, including the Sig Sauer P320C, and have found it to be an excellent suppressor. Built of titanium, it is lightweight with a small diameter, allowing it to fit under many handguards. It mounted up easily and allowed for some "quiet time" on the range.

### CQB FIREPOWER

My preferred method for using pistols like this is slung on the strong side, tight to the body. Having a handguard to grab certainly helps, but shooting accurately while holding the gun out with no support is still a chore. Using the sling, you can push forward against your shoulder, using the hand stop to steady the weapon. It takes some time to set up properly so you get the correct distance, but once you're dialed in the MPX-P is pretty accurate, even on the move. This method has been used for years by those fielding the MP5 during dignitary protec-





tion details, or as a primary weapon as a medic or support team member. After first learning this with iron sights, I found it was made even better with a quality red-dot sight, and the Aimpoint Micro T-2 fit that bill rather nicely.

Starting on the square range at 7 yards, it took some time for me to get dialed back in. After 100 rounds or so, I was getting pretty nice fist-sized groups starting from a ready position. Using the strong-side sling (strong-side arm through the loop), the pistol sits at your side, similar to a holstered position. It not only allows for some concealment where appropriate, but it can be pretty fast. Index the grip by pushing against the sling. Maintaining sling pressure, you drive it up and forward, grabbing the handguard with your off-hand as you index the target. Once the dot is on target, you go to work. With practice, it was possible to get on target in times

**Fast-targeting backup sights come with the MPX-P, including a flip-up front (top) with semi-circular wings and an adjustable rear (middle). The Aimpoint Micro T-2 (bottom) co-witnessed with the backup sights.**

similar to a solid draw (1.5 seconds). Even when pushing my personal limits, it was possible to stay well centered at 10 yards with groups a bit larger than my fist, which is plenty accurate for real-world applications.

Now it was time to get a move on. Starting on the square range at 20 yards, forward and backward movements were added to the drill. Standard protocols on select-fire with the MP5 was double- and triple-taps, so that was the norm here as well. With practice, the MPX-P was pretty fast and as accurate as it gets when you're minus a stock. I found it to be like running a similar setup with a rifle. Recoil, especially with the suppressor, was minimal at best. The MPX-P flings brass authoritatively and with solid consistency. Because I only had a single magazine, it was not possible to practice reloads, but it inserted straight in with no rocking needed. It also locks open on the last round, making transitions from an AR pretty easy and reloads about as fast as they get.

Working around the barricades, I found that the handstop worked rather nicely. Rather than use sling pressure, it was locked against the barricade. Just

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This modest company is a labor of love for its founder, R.E. Smith and even welds his name. Founded in 2009, RESCO Instruments aspired to build a sleek, simple and rugged timepiece. This vision was realized with the production of the Gen1 "Patriot" model, which now graces the wrists of over 100 active duty US Navy SEALs including Resco's founder, R.E. Smith who is still in active service as a US Navy SEAL. The Gen1 Patriot line is the only watch that has been field tested through every phase of NSW training by actual operators who provided feedback and design input. We pride ourselves on being an American brand. All of our watches are designed, assembled and tested in Coronado USA and bear the name of our hometown on the base of the dial. Current RESCO Collections include our Gen1 Re-release, Gen2 Patriot, GMT Red Circle, BlackFrog, Manus Chronograph, Hooper and BullFrog Collection.

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To all those who have gone downrange, we salute you!





SPECIFICATIONS	
SIG SAUER MPX-P	
Caliber	9mm
Barrel	8 inches
OA Length	17 inches
Weight	5 pounds (empty)
Sights	Flip-up front and rear
Grips	Polymer
Action	Semi-auto
Finish	Matte black
Capacity	30+1
MSRP	\$1,400

1. The Sig MPX-P comes with flip-up front and rear backup sights. 2. The top Picatinny rail makes it easy to add optics or reflex sights. 3. The threaded barrel comes with an A2-style flash suppressor. 4. Note the molded polymer grip. 5. The standard 30-round mags are translucent.



**“Even with the suppressor, it remained plenty short and easy to work around corners and obstacles.”**

lean into it, get your sight picture and you’ll find that the MPX-P will stay pretty much in place. It’s the same thing when working around the corners of a house. Indoors, the MPX-P was well suited to work from across the room. It really excels in tight spaces, making it a solid choice for home defense. Even with the suppressor, it remained plenty short and easy to work around corners and obstacles. I believe it would also work really well out of vehicles.

Accuracy was pretty solid, although this type of pistol is more difficult for me to dial in when it comes to groups at 25 yards. I shot a few groups while holding the MPX-P like a pistol—single- and two-handed, with no sling—and as one might expect, the barn was pretty safe.

After adding the sling, it proved much more accurate. With the sling extended for tension, it was possible to ring the 6-inch steel pretty much at will, with groups on the paper in the 3- to 4-inch range. Moving to the bench with a rest, I found it to be more like a rifle than a pistol. My best group of the day measured just over 1.5 inches, with four of the five shots closer to an inch using Hornady 115-grain XTP ammunition.

#### FINAL SHOTS

Designed with duty in mind, the trigger is rather stiff. It pulled pretty clean and broke between 8 to 9 pounds most of the time. That’s about the same as a true mil-spec AR trigger and a bit better than the MP5 was on semi-auto. Most 9mm

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## SIG SAUER MPX-P

### PERFORMANCE

#### SIG SAUER MPX-P 9MM

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 115 TAC-XP	1,275	1.70
Federal 147 HST	1,015	1.75
Hornady 115 XTP	1,250	1.55
Winchester 125 +P+	1,327	1.65

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

ARs deal with trigger pins walking and their recoil cycle is often more punishing. It seems counterintuitive, but it's true. Sig's MPX-P trigger uses a "bridge" that mitigates that and ensures it stays put, making it reliable if not stiff. Yes, you can drop in an AR trigger, but Sig Sauer will void the warranty, so it is not a recommended change.

Running this pistol with the suppressor was a ton of fun, and the Liberty Mystic X worked well. It is longer than some, but its titanium construction keeps it very light. For me, this setup is going to stick around, and the suppressor will stay on my MPX-P even when a stock is added and it turns into an SBR. This is a really nice combination of suppressor and weapon.

This MPX-P ran everything it was fed. It was all brass cased, but it ranged from 115-grain FMJ in my catch-all ammo can of 9mm to 147-grain HST from Federal. It never missed a beat, flinging brass several feet forward. Recoil changed with the ammo a bit, but it was never a real issue when it came to control, even with my Winchester 125-grain +P+ ammo.

With the growing popularity of AR pistols in 9mm, this MPX-P system is timely. Given the choice between a 9mm AR pistol and the MPX-P, it is a no-brainer: the MPX would be my choice. It would also be my first choice for an SBR build. Add a stock and you get an incredibly handy SBR for home defense, vehicle carry or even CQB work. An 8-inch barrel gets you all you need from a 9mm and keeps it workable in tight spaces. If you were thinking about an AR-style pistol in 9mm, make sure you take a really close look at the MPX-P. It may just change your mind. For more information, visit [sigsauer.com](http://sigsauer.com) or call 866-345-6744. **CH**

#### Editor's Note:

Want to see more live-fire coverage? Check out the author test-firing Sig Sauer's 9mm MPX-P at [personaldefenseworld.com](http://personaldefenseworld.com).



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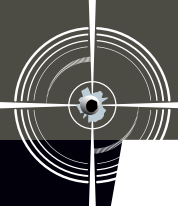
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## The king of custom 1911s builds a big case for the 9mm over the .45 Old Slabsides. BY BILL WILSON



**“THE 1911 IS A .45.”** “The .45 is a man’s gun.” “A .45 is the ultimate manstopper.” “The 9mm is underpowered.” “The 1911 wasn’t designed to be a 9mm.” Let’s face it, we’ve all heard one or more of these comments or similar ones. While there may be some truth to some of them, there’s also something most of us often don’t like much and it’s called change, and that’s what we have going on in the 1911 world right now.

Previously there have been several legitimate reasons for the lack of popularity of 1911 pistols chambered in 9x19mm Luger/parabellum, primarily poor functional reliability (mostly due to magazines and a lack of proper extractors), poor accuracy and inadequate terminal performance of 9mm ammunition. Well, that’s all changed now, and there are several reasons I personally see a dramatic revival in popularity of the 9mm 1911 in the future. Let’s look at some of the primary reasons.

### 🔴 FIT TO FIGHT

One reason is firearm reliability. Several manufacturers of 1911 pistols now know how to build reliable 9mm 1911s. With our local shooting group (we shoot a lot) and the training classes we teach and host, I rarely see a firearm-related function problem with 9mm 1911s, and certainly not as many as we do with .45s shooting factory 230-grain ball ammo.

This is another story, but unlike popular perception, .45 FMJ round-nose ball ammunition is far from being the best choice for reliable functioning in the 1911 platform. My buddies Ken Hackathorn and Larry Vickers do a lot of training these days, and they tell me they observe the same thing.



Bill Wilson, the founder of Wilson Combat, has been a fan of 9mm 1911s for years, as you can tell from his company’s extensive line. Shown is Wilson Combat’s 9mm X-TAC Compact.

John Johnston of BallisticRadio.com recently did a 4,000-round test of a Wilson Combat Protector Professional lightweight without a single malfunction. Quality 9mm 1911 pistols just work, simple as that. I know at Wilson Combat we have put a lot of effort into quality components for the 9mm and figur-

ing out how to improve its function and accuracy. There are other 1911 builders that have done the same.

### 🔴 BETTER MAGS & FODDER

Another factor is magazine design and quality. There are at least five 9mm 1911 magazines on the market now





**Ken Hackathorn prepares to fire from a high-ready position.**

that enhance functional reliability over traditional older designs. The original Colt-style magazines simply are not reliable feeders with anything except FMJ round-nose ammunition. Wilson Combat recently did a major re-design of our 9mm magazines and obviously I feel we have the best one, especially for feeding flat-point and JHP ammunition.

Due to vastly improved bullet designs and propellants, the 9mm can now easily hold its own with .40 S&W and .45 ACP calibers in terms of downrange terminal effectiveness. The FBI and the Texas Department of Public Safety recently announcing that they were switching back to 9mm obviously validates the terminal performance of the caliber. For handloaders, the latest Vihtavuori reloading guide lists 3N37 loads that will push a 115 grain to 1,305 fps, a 124 grain to 1,236 fps and a serious self-defense load with 3N38 that will push a 147 grain to 1,207 fps. Folks, that's performance previously reserved for the .38 Super.

Other than the .22 LR spectrum, I'm not aware of any caliber that has the wide selection of ammunition types that 9mm does. Seems like today we have a 9mm load for almost any purpose, from cost-effective training ammo to 20-round designer packs of the latest, greatest self-defense loads.

We also need to consider the cost of ammunition. Let's face it, if you want to be proficient with a handgun, you have to shoot a substantial amount of ammo, and it is expensive these days. At current street prices, you can almost shoot two rounds of 9mm for the cost of one round of .45 ACP. Less cost equals more shooting, which equals more proficiency with your pistol!

### 🎯 NATURAL TRAINER

The mild recoil and muzzle blast compared to .40 S&W and .45 ACP make the 9mm much easier to shoot, especially for inexperienced shooters. We do a lot of shooting here at the CWC ranch between our local shooting group and the training classes we put on. Without exception, everyone shoots a 9mm better than a .45, often dramatically better, as is the case with students of small stature and/or female shooters. In addition, it's the ideal caliber for young shooters looking to move up from .22 rimfire to a centerfire caliber.

During training classes, students often shoot 300 to 500 rounds in a day depending on the instructor or the type of class. Staying focused for large round counts so you continue to learn to do something except make empty cases can be tough, especially for newer shooters.

I think virtually all firearms instructors will agree with me that students fatigue less and stay focused for larger round counts when shooting the 9mm versus the .45 ACP cartridge.

While quality .45s typically are inherently very accurate, so are 1911s in 9mm, possibly even more so. Take NRA Action Pistol competition for example. Almost all the top competitors shoot some form of 9mm 1911, and this sport requires superb accuracy to be competitive. It is not uncommon at all to see a quality 9mm 1911 shoot sub-1-inch groups at 25 yards. In addition to the inherent accuracy capability of the pistol/ammunition combination, less recoil and often less muzzle blast equals more accurate shooting.

Finally, with modern self-defense loads, I like 11 rounds of 9mm a lot better than I like nine rounds of .45! From my perspective, more ammo available is always better.

### 🎯 HIGH PERFORMANCE

A pistol in 9mm endures much less battering than the same pistol in .40 S&W, .45 ACP or, heaven forbid, 10mm, which results in a substantially longer service life. Instances of parts breakage are also reduced and recoil springs last dramatically longer. While I have no proof of this,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 97 ►**



**New-shooter-friendly recoil of 9mm guns keeps the "fun" in fundamentals. Shown here is the author's grandson, Josh Wilson, at the CWC Ranch range.**

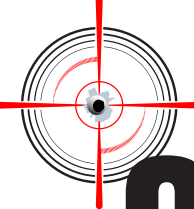


**Dozens of companies are stepping up to the plate to offer 9mm 1911s in various configurations to satisfy demand.**



**Joyce Wilson, an acclaimed shooter and the wife of Bill, helps a wounded warrior get back into training with a 9mm Wilson 1911.**





RANGE WEAR



# GHOST SHIELD EYE ARMOR

Angel 7 Industries delivers next-gen eye protection for the serious shooter.

BY FRED MASTISON

## “SHOOTER READY. STAND BY!”

With that the buzzer rings out and rounds begin to fly downrange. The shooter sprints from station to station, smoothly reloading as they go. The stage ends, weapons are checked and the shooter walks off hoping that they just shot the best stage of their life. Many factors go into a good run and they range from the gun and ammo to gear and skill. One of the most crucial components is solid eye protection. At the professional level, a shooter would never even consider using just off-the-shelf glasses. They know that the clearer their vision, the better their score. With that equation in mind, scores are about to go up with the arrival of Angel 7 Industries' Ghost Shield glasses.

Angel 7's new Ghost Shield glasses are a game-changer. They are some of the clearest and quickest-reacting photochromic glasses available. In fact, with a clarity rate of 90 percent, they lead the entire industry. Add to this clarity their ability to automatically lighten and darken in response to sunlight. According to Angel 7, Ghost Shield technology enables eyewear and eye protection systems to automatically adjust to any lighting condition faster than other photochromic technology. Eyewear systems utilizing Ghost Shield technology are almost completely clear and return to clear almost three times faster than other photochromic glasses.

## ● SUPERIOR PROTECTION

Ghost Shield glasses also have exceptional ballistic strength. The Ghost Shield design offers great protection without compromising lens thickness, optical clarity or increasing weight. To prove its point, Angel 7 Industries fired a 12-gauge shotgun at the glasses from close range. While there was obviously some scarring and scratches on the lenses, there was ultimately no penetration of pellets through the glasses. If a shooter has any debris or even gas blowback in their eyes, it can cost them the match, if not more.



Angel 7 Industries' advanced Ghost Shield glasses protect a shooter's eyes and will automatically dim in bright settings.

The glasses provided complete eye coverage both vertically and horizontally. This is critical since many competitions place shooters in awkward positions. The lack of a top frame bar gets rid of any vision impairments associated with so many other glasses. This is especially helpful when you end up behind a riflescope. The top bar on most glasses has caused consternation with many a competitor. They run to a station only to have their glasses slip down slightly. They bear down behind the scope only to have the top of their glasses lay right in the middle of their vision field. The Ghost Shield glasses provide crystal-clear vision that does not interfere with scoped rifle shooting.

## ● BUILT TO WIN

The fit of the Ghost Shield is good as well. With thin arms and an ample nose bridge, they sit on the face very comfortably. Thick and heavy arms become very uncomfortable over time. Additionally,

thicker arms actually diminish the ear protection's ability to dampen sound. The channel that is created between the glasses' arm and the ear pro allows sound to travel into the ear. The arms for the Ghost Shield are thin yet strong enough to be durable. They fit snugly under the ear protection and do not dig into your skull over time.

The new Ghost Shield glasses from Angel 7 are indeed a game-changer. As they begin to make their way into the marketplace, I have no doubt in my mind that the competitive shooting world will take notice. As professionals, the company understands the need for gear that performs without issue every single time it is brought into action. Ghost Shield provides the perfect trifecta of winning characteristics: clear vision, ballistic protection and exceptional fit. These truly are the match champions of ballistic eyewear. For more, visit [angel7industries.com](http://angel7industries.com) or call 800-620-1528. 



Angel 7 conducted extreme testing on its glasses. Shot from a 12-gauge shell, at close range, did not penetrate.



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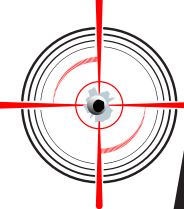
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# TOP .40s

**After 25 years, the .40 S&W caliber is still a formidable game-changer for personal defense! Here's why.**

**BY DR. MARTIN D. TOPPER**

The .40 Smith & Wesson cartridge is a true success story. Part of the reason is that it's a well-balanced compromise between the high cartridge capacity of the "Wonder Nines" and the reputed stopping power of the .45 ACP. Another part is the fact that .40-caliber firearms and ammo have increased in variety and improved steadily over the last 25 years.

The .40-caliber concept isn't new. Eleven percent of Colt Single Action Army revolvers were chambered in .38-40. Sometime in the 1960s and '70s, Bill Jordan, Elmer Keith and Skeeter Skelton brought the .40-caliber revolver concept back by calling for the development of a new revolver cartridge that fired a 180- to 200-grain bullet of approximately .40 caliber at about 1,100 fps.

As semi-autos became more popular, this "ideal" ballistic formula stimulated the development of pistol rounds like .40 Guns and Ammo, the .41 Action Express and the 10mm. In 1990, Smith & Wesson and Winchester cooperatively developed a .40 cartridge with a standard rim that could be fired in a 9mm platform. The idea caught on like wildfire after the appearance of the S&W Model 4006 and its 180-grain JHP cartridge with a velocity of 1,010 fps and 408 foot-pounds of muzzle energy.

## ● HIGH PERFORMANCE

The vast majority of .40 S&W guns used today for personal defense and law enforcement are semi-autos. The following is just a sample of some of the more popular .40-caliber pistols currently available. There are other well-made .40 S&W pistols on the market and they should not be overlooked just because they're not listed in this article.

**Subcompacts:** Even though the dou-

ble-stack .40s were the first to appear, the popularity of the .40 S&W cartridge soon led manufacturers to modify their single-stack 9mm guns to fire .40 ammo. Most single-stacks are striker-fired and have polymer frames. Kahr's CT40 and P40 are light, highly reliable and very popular. S&W's .40-caliber M&P Shield is also a good seller. Those who want heavier guns for better recoil control or who like hammer-fired pistols can choose the aluminum-framed Sig Sauer P239 or the steel-framed, 1911-style Springfield Armory EMP.

Shooters who want an extra two to four rounds in their deep concealment guns have several double-stack subcompact .40s to choose from. They include the Sig Sauer P240, the Glock 27, Heckler & Koch's P2000SK, Beretta's PX4 Storm SubCompact and Springfield's XD Mod.2. Three of these are striker-fired, while the Sig Sauer and the Beretta have hammer-fired actions. These guns are about the largest .40s that most people can easily conceal in a pocket holster for everyday carry.

**Compacts:** Compact semi-autos are about the largest pistols average-sized people can conceal well under a light jacket or sweater in an inside-the-waist-band holster. Compact .40s usually hold 12 to 16 rounds of ammunition and have barrels about 4 inches long. They include the Jericho 941, Sig Sauer's P229, HK's P2000 and USP Compact, Ruger's SR-40C, the Glock 23, Smith & Wesson's M&P .40 Compact and Beretta's PX4 Storm Compact.

**Full Size:** Full-sized pistols are usually worn outside the belt and are primarily used for open carry and/or home defense. Pistols like Ruger's SR-40, Smith & Wesson's M&P .40,

HK's VP40 and P30L and the Glock 22 are popular choices in this category. Like the compact models, these guns have either polymer or aluminum frames and are either striker or hammer fired. The barrels on these guns are generally between 4 and 4.5 inches, and their double-stack magazines usually hold 12 to 15 rounds of ammunition.

## ● FORMIDABLE .40s

The concept of an "ideal" cartridge may have stimulated the development of the .40, but it was soon cast aside in the late 1980s after the FBI shootout in Miami, which helped cause the shooting world to become deeply embroiled in a renewed debate about stopping power. The argument probably never will be fully resolved, and instead of producing the "ideal" cartridge, ammunition companies began developing high-performance ammunition based on bullet performance in 10-percent ballistic gelatin.

Today we have .40 S&W ammunition designed for a number of law enforcement and civilian shooting scenarios. This allows people who carry guns to make the best ammunition choice they can based on shooting conditions they can reasonably anticipate. I use the word reasonably with care, because conditions can change rapidly in critical incidents when assailants hide behind or leave cover. There are no magic bullets or guarantees in a gunfight.

**Reduced Penetration:** This type of ammunition is specifically designed for use in places where there is a high possibility of collateral damage due to overpenetration, such as large social gatherings where people are packed tightly together, dwellings with thin walls and industrial facilities where a





1. The .40 S&W is powerful yet controllable.
2. The Ruger SR40 has a 16+1 capacity.
3. The .40 S&W was born for law enforcement.
4. Sig's P229 is popular with civilians and police.
5. Federal's Guard Dog ammo has a polymer disk that promotes expansion.
6. S&W's M&P40 serves with many officers.
7. Speer's .40 S&W Gold Dot (center) expands halfway between the 9mm and .45 ACP.
8. HK's new VP40 has a 13+1 capacity.
9. CorBon's DPX expands and penetrates reliably.
10. HK's USP Compact is built for concealed carry.



**BUYER'S GUIDE**

deep-penetrating bullet has the potential to cause serious consequences. Ammunition best suited for these types of scenarios contains lightweight bullets that incapacitate through rapid energy transfer rather than deep penetration. The .40-caliber rounds that meet this criteria generally produce 8 to 12 inches of penetration in bare ballistic gelatin, and also tend to fragment when they encounter many types of barrier material. These loads include HPR's 105-grain Black Ops OTF, MagSafe's 46-grain SWAT load and CorBon's 115-grain Glaser Safety Slug and 130-grain Pow'RBall load.

**Controlled Penetration:** Bullets used in controlled penetration ammunition are designed to expand and penetrate on the order of 11 to 14 inches in bare ballistic gelatin. They also tend to remain intact when they penetrate light barriers, like wallboard, multiple light sheets of plywood and side windows on automobiles. Generally, these loads have light or middleweight bullets such as Federal's 135-grain Hydra-Shok and 135-grain Guard Dog, Liberty Ammunition's 60-grain Civil Defense, Winchester's 155-grain Silvertip, Remington's 155-grain HTP, Speer's 165-grain Gold Dot, and Hornady's 165-grain Critical

Defense and 155-grain XTP.

**Deep Penetration:** Bullets used in deep penetration ammunition often are heavy-for-caliber in weight and have bonded cores or all-copper X-bullet construction. These projectiles are designed to both expand and penetrate barriers like automobile door sheet metal, car windshield safety glass and multiple sheets of plywood and wall-board while still penetrating a minimum 12 inches and no more than 18 inches in 10-percent ballistic gelatin, as required by the FBI's ammunition test protocol. These loads include Speer's 180-grain Gold Dot, Federal's 165-grain HST, Winchester's 165-grain PDX1 and 165-grain Ranger T, Remington's 180-grain Golden Saber Black Belt and 180-grain Ultimate Defense, CorBon's 140-grain DPX, Wilson Combat's 140-grain TAC-XP, Barnes' 140-grain TAC-XPD and Black Hills' 140-grain Barnes TAC-XP and 180-grain XTP.

**Other Ammo:** There are also a number of contemporary defensive loads that do not fit into the criteria above. These include new designs like the 107-grain PolyCase Inceptor ARX, ICC's .40 S&W JHP and some conventional jacketed hollow points that offer controlled or deep penetration, but do not necessarily

fit neatly within the criteria of the three categories defined above.

**EVOLVING FIREPOWER** Recently, there have been articles predicting the imminent demise of the .40 S&W. These report that a number of law enforcement agencies have dropped the .40 in favor of the 9mm cartridge. In addition, they state that the 9mm holds more ammo, kicks less and causes less wear and tear on the gun, and these points are well taken. But does that mean the .40 is headed for obsolescence? I seriously doubt it.

The fact that some 147-grain 9mm loads perform as well as or better than some .40 S&W or .45 ACP in gelatin tests is hardly conclusive evidence of the 9mm's greater ability to incapacitate an armed assailant. That's because gelatin can only predict the bullet's capacity to expand and the bullet's average depth of penetration. Ballistic gel can't predict how specific bullet designs and calibers damage the various body tissues. In addition, gelatin can only provide a rough estimate of localized and remote injury to the circulatory and central nervous systems due to internal pressure caused by temporary cavitation. Therefore much broader research is needed before con-

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cluding that the 9mm is really superior to the .40 or any other pistol caliber.

In the end, some law enforcement agencies will go back to the 9mm given recent improvements in 9mm ammo, the ability of some officers to shoot the 9mm more accurately than the .40 and the fact that the 9mm is less expensive than the .40 to shoot and maintain. However, many in law enforcement and a good number of civilians are satisfied with the performance of the .40 on the range and on the street. So they'll likely stay with it.

If this didn't make it difficult enough to predict the .40's future, we don't know what improvements will be made in pistols and ammo in the next 25 years. For all we know, someone may yet perfect the Gyrojet and make the 9mm, the .40 S&W and many other handgun cartridges completely obsolete. 

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### BERETTA PX4 STORM COMPACT

#### Specifications

**Barrel** ▶ 3.27 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 6.1 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 27.4 ounces (empty)  
**Grip** ▶ Polymer  
**Sights** ▶ Three-dot  
**Action** ▶ DA/SA  
**Finish** ▶ Matte black  
**Capacity** ▶ 10+1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$650



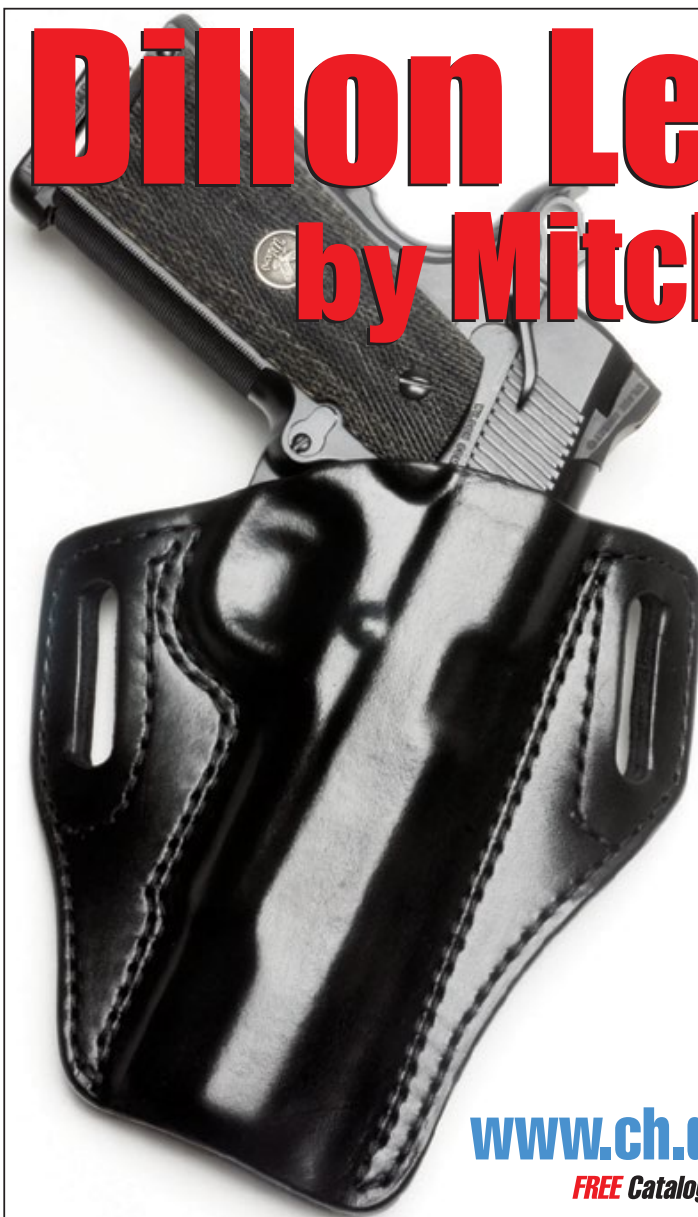
### KAHR CT40

#### Specifications

**Barrel** ▶ 4 inches  
**OA Length** ▶ 6.5 inches  
**Weight** ▶ 20.8 ounces (empty)  
**Grip** ▶ Polymer  
**Sights** ▶ White bar-dot  
**Action** ▶ DAO  
**Finish** ▶ Black frame, matte stainless slide  
**Capacity** ▶ 7+1  
**MSRP** ▶ \$449

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GLOCK 26, 27, 33	K89-18815
GLOCK 20, 21	K89-18816
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### SPRINGFIELD ARMORY EMP

#### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 3 inches  
OA Length ▶ 6.6 inches  
Weight ▶ 33 ounces (empty)  
Grip ▶ Cocobolo  
Sights ▶ Three-dot tritium  
Action ▶ SA  
Finish ▶ Black frame, stainless slide  
Capacity ▶ 8+1  
MSRP ▶ N/A



### SIG SAUER P239

#### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 3.6 inches  
OA Length ▶ 6.6 inches  
Weight ▶ 29.5 ounces (empty)  
Grip ▶ Polymer  
Sights ▶ Contrast  
Action ▶ DA/SA  
Finish ▶ Matte black  
Capacity ▶ 7+1  
MSRP ▶ \$892-\$1,120



### SMITH & WESSON M&P SHIELD

#### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 3.1 inches  
OA Length ▶ 6.1 inches  
Weight ▶ 19 ounces (empty)  
Grip ▶ Polymer  
Sights ▶ Three-dot  
Action ▶ Striker-fired  
Finish ▶ Matte black  
Capacity ▶ 6+1 MSRP ▶ \$449



### GLOCK 22

#### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 4.49 inches  
OA Length ▶ 8.03 inches  
Weight ▶ 25.59 ounces (empty)  
Grip ▶ Polymer  
Sights ▶ Fixed  
Action ▶ Safe Action  
Finish ▶ Matte black  
Capacity ▶ 15+1  
MSRP ▶ N/A

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## HECKLER & KOCH P30

### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 3.85 inches  
 OA Length ▶ 7.12 inches  
 Weight ▶ 26.08 ounces (empty)  
 Grip ▶ Polymer  
 Sights ▶ Three-dot  
 Action ▶ DA/SA  
 Finish ▶ Matte black  
 Capacity ▶ 10+1, 13+1 **MSRP ▶ \$719**



## HECKLER & KOCH VP40

### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 4.09 inches  
 OA Length ▶ 7.34 inches  
 Weight ▶ 28.93 ounces (empty)  
 Grip ▶ Polymer  
 Sights ▶ Three-dot  
 Action ▶ DA/SA  
 Finish ▶ Matte black  
 Capacity ▶ 10+1, 13+1  
**MSRP ▶ \$719**



## RUGER SR40

### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 4.1 inches  
 OA Length ▶ 7.5 inches  
 Weight ▶ 27.25 ounces  
 Grip ▶ Polymer  
 Sights ▶ Adjustable three-dot  
 Action ▶ Striker-fired  
 Finish ▶ Matte black or stainless  
 Capacity ▶ 15+1 **MSRP ▶ \$529**



## SMITH & WESSON M&P40

### Specifications

Barrel ▶ 4.25 inches  
 OA Length ▶ 7.63 inches  
 Weight ▶ 24.25 ounces (empty)  
 Grip ▶ Polymer  
 Sights ▶ Front ramp, Novak rear  
 Action ▶ Striker-fired  
 Finish ▶ Matte black  
 Capacity ▶ 15+1 **MSRP ▶ \$569**

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◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

## TALE OF THE TAPE

ing an exposed hammer, however, that Ruger began offering the LCRx).

For a small, lightweight revolver the LCR is well balanced with a long but very smooth trigger pull that averages 10.75 pounds. The deeply curved, skeletonized trigger requires nearly a full inch of pull to rotate the cylinder, cock the internal hammer and discharge the firearm, but the mechanism is designed to generate less friction than traditional double-action-only triggers, thereby mitigating some of the stacking generally experienced in firing double action.

## “The Winchester rounds clocked 760 fps through the Colt and 768 fps from the Ruger.”

The gun is equipped with a standard notched rear sight channel and a ramped front sight. (Editor's Note: The author's LCR used for Tale Of The Tape testing is an earlier version. Current LCRs have front sights containing a white insert for enhanced sighting.) The LCR in .38 Special +P weighs just 13.5 ounces. The revolver stands taller than the Agent by a quarter of an inch, has the same overall length but with a slightly shorter barrel length of 1.875 inches and comes in just a tad wider at 1.3 inches. (ruger.com)

### ● RANGE REPORT

Both guns were fired double action only at a distance of 7 yards using Winchester .38 Special 130-grain FMJ target loads. The Winchester rounds clocked 760 fps through the Colt and 768 fps from the Ruger. The Agent has a smoother double-action trigger pull than the LCR by 0.75 ounces, which is subtle but noticeable. As to accuracy, both have comparable sighting capabilities with the Ruger gaining an edge with better balance and recoil control. The best five rounds from the Colt Agent measured 2.75 inches, with a best three at 0.75 inches. The LCR also grouped five at 2.75 inches, with a best three measuring 1 inch. So just about even.

It all comes down to is weight versus ease of handling. The old Colt will always win out in capacity, but when everything else is considered, the technology behind the LCR makes it an easier revolver to handle and thus a better gun for today's carry needs, even with one less round in the cylinder. ☐

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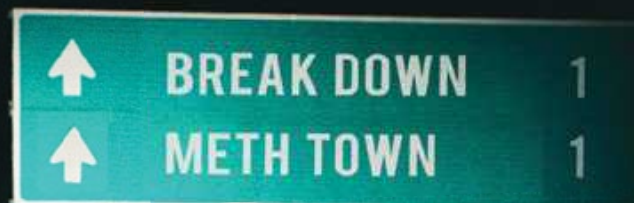


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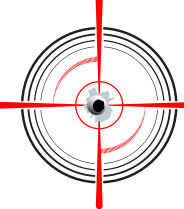
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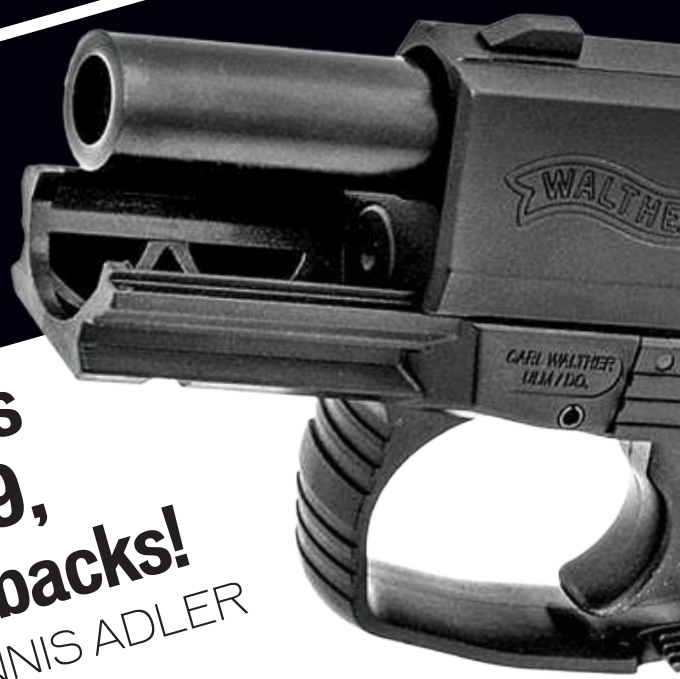




# TRIED & TRUE 177 WALTHERS

Experience real-as-it-gets looks  
and training with Umarex's P99,  
PPS and P.38 blowbacks!

BY DENNIS ADLER



**WHEN CARL WALTHER INTRODUCED** the 4.5mm (.177 caliber) CP99 air pistol in 2001, it was regarded as a "training gun" by the renowned German arms-maker. It was, in fact, so accurate in appearance, weight and general operation that German police departments (who carry the P99 and P99 variations) used them for training purposes. At the time, the CP99 was as close to "authentic" as an air pistol came, with the exception of the Beretta 92FS, which is also manufactured by Walther's sister company, Umarex. Both, however, were pellet guns that fired eight rounds from a rotary magazine inserted at the breech.

Nearly 15 years later, these two models are still being produced, but over that same period Walther began planning even more authentic .177-caliber, semi-auto air pistols. At the forefront today are two new models, the CP99 Compact and PPS, both of which not only duplicate the size and operating features of the real 9mm handguns they are based upon, but also have blowback actions which cycle the slide and chamber the next BB from a magazine contained in the grip. This redefines "training gun" because these are real Walthers made by Umarex.

## CP99 DETAILS

When Umarex began work on the latest CP99, the decision was made that it would have a blowback action for more realism and that it would not be the full-sized P99 version like the pellet gun, but rather the newer P99c (Compact) variant. While the CP99 is not an exact copy of the 9mm (and .40 S&W) compacts, it shares

the same frame, slide and standard grip dimensions, trigger design and ambidextrous triggerguard magazine releases.

Where the gun differs in actual operation

is that the BB magazine and CO<sub>2</sub> capsules are not contained within a single magazine, as they are in a number of current Umarex semi-auto designs. The BB magazine still loads into the grip, but it is a thin, stick-type mag with a grip-sized floorplate, and the CO<sub>2</sub> capsule is inserted by removing the backstrap panel.

The air pistol also has a manual safety on the right side of the frame, which is not used on the cartridge-firing P99 models. The overall handling of the air pistol, however, is nearly identical, including the dustcover accessory rail (there is even a Walther laser available for the air pistol), the triggerguard configuration and the grip contour, mak-

Umarex's P99 replicas include triggerguard-mounted magazine releases.



ing this an excellent training aid for drawing, re-holstering, slide operation, magazine release and sighting drills. The airguns are available in two versions, one with a black polymer frame and a black



**“When you pull the trigger on the CP99 Compact and the slide comes back, there is a sense of authenticity to this Walther air pistol...”**



These BB-firing Walther P99 Compact replicas work just like their centerfire brethren. The slide even locks back after the last BB is fired.



With dimensions nearly identical to the 9mm Walther PPS, the blowback-operated Umarex PPS air pistol is an excellent training gun.

metal slide and a two-tone version with a brushed stainless slide.

In terms of weight and balance, the air pistol is a little heavier at 27 ounces; the actual P99c weighs 20.8 ounces unloaded, but the two have the same balance in the hand. When you pull the trigger on the CP99 Compact and the slide comes back, there is a sense of authenticity to this Walther air pistol that makes firing it an experience, even if you're not using it to gain experience.

### ● PPS PARTICULARS

The first time you pick up the PPS air pistol, you have to wonder how Walther could make a \$90 BB gun look and feel so much like a \$599 semi-auto. The degree of detail Umarex has put into this air pistol to make it look and feel “authentic” also pays off in its value as a training

gun. The PPS air pistol has the same operating features as the 9mm model with the exception of a blade safety in the trigger. This has been replaced on the air pistol by a cross-bolt safety that can be set and released with the trigger finger.

The trigger's shape is the about the same and trigger pull a bit lighter at 5.2 pounds, compared to the 9mm's



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## AIR SHOW

### MIL SURPLUS SPECIAL

## WALTHER P.38 IN .177

**ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS** 9mm pistols of all time, the P.38 was originally developed by Walther in 1935 as a prototype design. The final version was put into production in 1938 as the *Pistole 38* or Walther P.38. Featuring a recoil-operated, locked-breech design, it had a short, top-open slide and double-action operation, the latter being a first for a 9mm semi-auto military handgun.

**MARKS OF THE LEGEND:** The Umarex Legends Walther P.38 is a single-action, 20-shot BB pistol with an authentic blowback action. Although not a double-action/single-action design like the original, the all-metal construction of this air pistol allows it to deliver its rounds at an impressive velocity of 400 fps. Highly authentic in appearance, markings and general operation (because it is a Walther), the barrel length is 4.75 inches, overall length is 8.5 inches and its carry weight 30.5 ounces, which is very close to the original's weight of 33.5 ounces. The gun is remarkably authentic in its handling, and it also fits any WWII-era P.38 holster design. With a suggested retail of \$118, this Walther air pistol is one of the best buys for a WWII-era design. —Dennis Adler



7.6-pound average. It is still enough resistance at nearly 5.5 pounds to give the feel of pulling a real semi-auto trigger. Among other important features duplicated on the PPS air pistol is the use of white-dot sights to match those on the cartridge-firing gun, the same slide and magazine release levers, an integrated under-muzzle Weaver rail for mounting a small tactical light or laser, and, of course, having to pull the slide to the rear to chamber the first BB. Thus, every operation once the gun is loaded is identical to firing a 9mm PPS.

For a head-to-head comparison, I tested the air pistol against a real PPS. The target was set out at 7 yards—perfect for blowback air pistol accuracy as well as CQB use with the 9mm. The comparison began with drawing the gun, chambering the first round (normally, one would carry the PPS with a round already chambered) and firing five rounds. In terms of draw, chambering, sighting and firing, the air pistol gives you the exact same handling with the exception of lighter resistance when chambering

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the first round. And, of course, there is no recoil to contend with.

The next part of the exercise was reloading. The PPS air pistol uses a separate stick magazine that holds 18 steel BBs, but it is still released from and loaded into the grip in the same fashion as a 9mm magazine.


The practice is in actuating the ambidextrous magazine releases built into the triggerguard, reloading and releasing the slide to chamber the first round. Everything works the same way on both guns. Thus, for about \$90, you can practice

← **The backstrap comes off to load the CO<sub>2</sub> capsule and has a built-in hexagonal wrench for turning the CO<sub>2</sub> puncture screw.**

every aspect of handling the PPS without the expense of firing 9mm rounds.

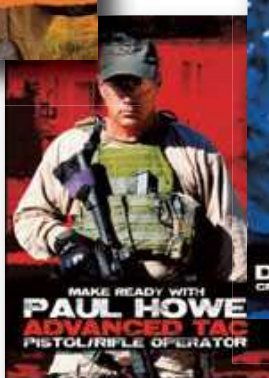
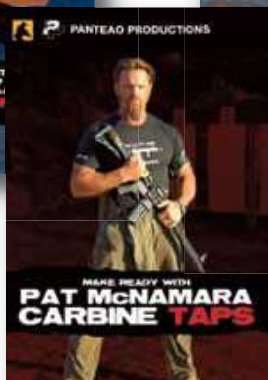
## SIDE BY SIDE

As for accuracy, the best five rounds of Federal American Eagle 115-grain FMJ fired from 7 yards while the 9mm PPS measured 1.2 inches. The air pistol nearly matched it with a best five clustered at 1.22 inches. The 9mm rounds clocked 1,124 fps while the PPS air pistol sends its .177-caliber steel BBs down-range at 350 fps. Sighting with both guns was virtually identical. The air pistol has a bit more creep in the trigger but it is close enough to the 9mm PPS to make it a viable training tool.

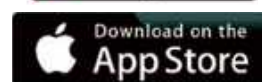
Overall, for training purposes, this is one of the best choices in an air pistol for practicing handling skills with a concealed-carry-sized semi-auto. And if you own or plan to purchase a 9mm PPS, it is a very small investment to become familiarized with the gun and its carry options (especially how comfortably this very narrow pistol can be carried) before laying down \$599 for the real thing. And every time you take that BB gun out to go plinking tin cans, you are still practicing with a pistol very similar to the model you carry every day! For more information, visit [umarexusa.com](http://umarexusa.com). 

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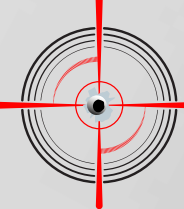


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# MIGHTY 22 MAG

The Sidewinder and Mighty Mouse laser join forces  
for last-ditch, save-the-day defense. **BY** WILLIAM BELL

**I'VE LONG HELD THAT SMALL** handguns and laser sights are a perfect match. Now we have both the perfect mini revolver and the perfect laser sight to go with it. Why do I label a mini revolver as “perfect?” Well, since late December of 2012, when North American Arms (NAA) announced the Sidewinder, I’ve considered it the epitome of the mini revolvers.

Other than a short-lived hinged-frame design put out a year earlier by NAA, the Sidewinder has proved to be the quickest mini five-shooter to load and unload due to its swing-out cylinder. While it’s no .45, it offers five rounds of .22 Magnum firepower, and the ammo companies have now designed rounds with bullets that will expand when fired

from a 1-inch-barreled revolver. It’s a backup gun for sure, but it still covers the first rule of a gunfight—have a gun.

As far as the laser sight goes, I consider it a perfect complement to the NAA Sidewinder because of its simplicity of operation. Prior to the introduction of the Mighty Mouse laser sight by LaserLyte, all mini-revolver laser sights had to be



SPECIFICATIONS	
NAA SIDEWINDER	
Caliber	.22 WMR
Barrel	1 inch
OA Length	5 inches
Weight	6.7 ounces (empty)
Grips	Laminated wood
Sights	Fixed
Action	SA
Finish	Matte stainless
Capacity	5
MSRP	\$349

turned on with a push-button or a switch. In my book, that requires too much in the way of fine motor skills when the stress levels are out of sight in a lethal-force situation. The Mighty Mouse has its activation button on the front portion of the grip that covers the frontstrap, so you grab the gun to shoot and the laser instantly turns on.

### POCKET POWER

The NAA Sidewinder is the pinnacle of the mini revolvers with its swing-out cylinder capability, which translates into simultaneous ejection of empty cases. With the one exception cited previously, the older version could only be loaded or unloaded by removing the cylinder. Essentially, you got done what needed doing in five shots. I was interested in seeing what the cost of having the swing-out cylinder was size- and weight-wise over a standard .22 Magnum mini. I measured a NAA Black Widow and found that the topstrap length was 2.05 inches on it and the Sidewinder. From the top to the bottom of the frame ahead of the cylinder, the Black Widow measured 1.14 inches, while the Sidewinder was 1.22 inches, which is a slight increase to accommodate the cylinder crane assembly. Weight-wise, a standard .22 Magnum mini weighs 5.9 ounces while the Sidewinder is 6.7 ounces. For me, the slight increase in size and weight are well worth it on the Sidewinder.

Other dimensions worth considering are the Sidewinder’s 1-inch barrel, its stainless steel construction, its overall length of 5 inches, its height of 2.87 inches and its width of 1.06 inches. The Sidewinder has a single-action (SA) mechanism, which means it has to be cocked for each shot, but the hammer spur is easily accessible and serrated, and it has a serrated spur trigger. The mini revolver offers operators a front post



The LaserLyte Mighty Mouse laser activates as soon as you properly grip the NAA Sidewinder revolver.

“...I like the intimidation factor of the red dot and the extra time one gets for target identification.”

and a fixed rear notch sight. You can also get it with a .22 LR conversion cylinder to make for less expensive practice. The grips are a smooth, laminated wood.

### LASER FOCUS

The Mighty Mouse by LaserLyte will fit any of the NAA mini revolvers, including the Black Widow, the Pug and other standard models. Besides instant activation, it has the red dot intimidation factor that, thanks to TV, everyone is aware of. The laser unit replaces the factory grip entirely, and a stalk that extends up from the right grip panel projects the laser beam over the top of the cylinder.

Built from 55-percent glass-filled nylon, the Might Mouse unit is tough, and it attaches to a firearm using a hex-head screw. The right grip panel holds the 3x392 batteries and a coin-slotted compartment cover allows a battery change without having to remove the grips. The unit produces a 5-mW, class IIIA laser and has a constant-on life of over one hour. My sample came with batteries installed and three extras, plus hex wrenches for the grip and sight-adjustment screws and instructions. The tradeoff is the unit adds 0.75 ounces of weight and extends the gun’s width to approximately 1.25 inches.

I installed the Mighty Mouse on the Sidewinder and tried to adjust it match the revolver’s point of aim (POA) at 7 yards with the fixed sights.

### RANGE TIME

For a tiny five-shooter with small sights, the NAA Sidewinder turned out to have plenty of practical accuracy. I used three different .22 Magnum loads shooting from the bench at 7 yards, and my best five-shot group measured 0.69 inches with CCI Maxi-Mag +V 30-grain JHP bullets. Second place went to Winchester PDX1 loads and third place to Hornady Critical Defense. For point of impact/point of aim, the gun shot slightly low and left with the sights.

Next, I fired the .22 Magnum cartridges into some ballistic medium to see what kind of expansion and penetration potential the bullets possessed. Penetration using the CCI Maxi-Mag was about 8.75 inches, but the conventional hollow-point bullets didn’t expand. The Hornady Critical Defense went in about 5.25 inches and displayed a classic “mushroom,” while Winchester’s PDX1 projectile folded back the jacket petals, forming jagged points for increased soft-tissue damage.

To test the Mighty Mouse laser sight, I re-installed the sight and then put up a reduced-sized silhouette target at 15 yards. The Sidewinder was loaded with a mix of the test cartridges and I moved up to the 3-yard line. To my way of thinking, the NAA mini revolvers are for last-ditch, up-close-and-personal engagements.

Having to use some Kentucky wind-age, after a couple of rounds I knew



POCKET CORNER



The Mighty Mouse makes it easy to get on target quickly in a high-stress situation.



Here you can see just how tiny NAA's mini revolvers truly are in hand.

where to put the red dot to hit in the center of the head. I moved back to 7 yards, reloaded and, after putting the dot about 2 o'clock in the 8 ring, I started getting center-mass hits. I had no trouble seeing the red dot at these two distances, but it got pretty challenging at 15 yards in shaded daylight. I had some hits over in the right shoulder area before I walked a couple back into center mass.

Of note, and it was something I'd anticipated, was that the stalk with the laser projector makes dumping all five

empty cases at once improbable. At least one or two cases would be left in the cylinder, and it had to be turned slightly and the ejector rod pushed again to extract them. Again, I don't think you are going to need over five rounds, and if you do, you'd better get some distance and cover between you and the bad guy(s) before you attempt a reload.

The Sidewinder with the LaserLyte

PERFORMANCE		
NAA SIDEWINDER .22 WMR		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
CCI Maxi-Mag +V 30 JHP	1,106	0.69
Hornady Critical Defense 45 JHP	939	1.85
Winchester PDX1 40 JHP	1,010	1.26

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 7 YARDS.

riding shotgun was fun to shoot. I'm going to keep working with this laser unit to see if I can get POA matched up tighter with point of impact. At 5 to 9 yards, it won't make a lot of difference, and I like the intimidation factor of the red dot and the extra time one gets for target identification. Without question, the Mighty Mouse has found a new home on my little Sidewinder, and in a near-future issue of *CH*, I'll be wringing out NAA's new micro member of the family—the 4-inch-barreled Sidewinder. **CH**

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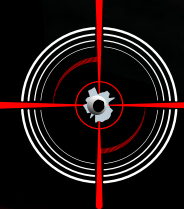
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# STREET EAGLE 1911 GSS

Magnum Research's stainless steel Desert Eagle 1911 GSS is ready to soar right out of the box.

BY PAUL SCARLATA  
PHOTOS BY STEVE WOODS



The Desert Eagle 1911 GSS comes with several custom-grade features, including front and rear slide serrations, an undercut triggerguard, a skeletonized trigger and hammer, wooden grips and much more.





**SHORTLY AFTER** the parcel delivery service dropped off the box, I opened it and removed the black plastic case it contained. I unsnapped the case's two catches and took out the 1911 pistol residing therein, removed the magazine and retracted the slide to verify that it was empty. I let the slide run forward and, pointing it in a safe direction, I pulled the trigger. Whereupon I exclaimed "Holy cow!"

The reason for this exclamation of surprise (delight?) was that the trigger on this particular pistol had without a doubt one of the lightest, crispest let-offs of any out-of-the-box 1911 I have used

in a very long time. I immediately went to my workshop and retrieved my RCBS trigger-pull gauge, and I was amazed to see that it registered 3.5 pounds because, to be honest about it, it actually felt lighter than that.

Man, was I excited about taking this new offering from Magnum Research, the Desert Eagle 1911 GSS (Government Stainless Steel) made by the Israeli company Bul, to the range.

The backstory on Bul is that it is a privately owned company that was founded in 1990 and specializes in the development, construction and maintenance of indoor shooting ranges in both Israel

and abroad. The company began building CZ 75-style and 1911-style pistols in the early 1990s. In 2009, Magnum Research began importing the company's 1911 pistols and today offer 11 models in Government, Commander and subcompact sizes with blue or stainless steel construction as well as a line with case-hardened frames.

### **GSS SPECS**

I became aware of Magnum Research's new stainless steel pistols—the 1911 GSS, 1911 CSS (Commander) and 1911 USS (Undercover)—late last year. Except for their lengths and heights,

#### **SPECIFICATIONS**

##### **MAGNUM RESEARCH DESERT EAGLE 1911 GSS**

Caliber	.45 ACP
Barrel	5 inches
OA Length	8.6 inches
Weight	36.2 ounces (empty)
Grips	Checkered wood
Sights	Front blade, adjustable rear
Action	SA
Finish	Stainless
Capacity	8+1
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NEWSTANDS NOW**MAGNUM ARCH DESERT EAGLE 1911 GSS**

The Desert Eagle 1911 GSS handled well and offered light recoil, which translated to faster follow-up shots.

**“...the Desert Eagle 1911 GSS comes out of the box ready to handle just about any task one might set a 1911 pistol to...”**

the trio has much in common: stainless steel slides, checkered frames and backstraps, high-profile sights and much more. In fact, the most glaring difference is that the subcompact 1911 USS features an aluminum alloy frame and an adjustable rear sight.

While I am a lifelong fan of the 1911 pistol, I must confess to not having much interest in the Commander and subcompact platforms. My experience has been that the two shorter 1911s tend to be finicky with regards to reliability and ammunition tolerance, whereas the Government model's reliability is legendary, or, as some of my acquaintances put it, “Because that's the way John Moses designed it!”

As I've already described the pistol's (excellent) trigger, I will go on to tell you what else there is about the Desert Eagle 1911 GSS that impressed me—and there's quite a bit of it.

First of all, the slide and frame have an attractive (and practical) brushed stainless finish. The round top slide has dual dovetail cuts for mounting a square blade (with a white-dot) front sight and high-profile rear sights. The rear is



The pistol carried well in a Safariland paddle holster.

sloped so as to not hang up when reholstering the pistol, while its rear face is serrated to cut down on glare. Both can be laterally adjusted for windage. Grasping grooves fore and aft allow you to retract the slide with a variety of grips and from different angles. These grooves also have sharply cut edges so that doing so with wet/oily hands or when wearing gloves is not problematic.

The ejection port has been lowered and flared to make sure that spent cases are removed quickly, while a full-length, stainless steel recoil spring guide rod ensures consistent slide reciprocation and lockup after firing.

The frontstrap of the grip frame features 20-lpi checkering (as does the flat mainspring housing) for a firm purchase. Similarly, reduced metal under the triggerguard allows you to get a high grip on the pistol for improved recoil control. An extended thumb safety and beaver-tail grip safety with a palm swell allow positive manipulation of the two security devices, while the edges of magazine well are beveled to smooth out reloads. Both of the supplied eight-round magazines feature extended polymer baseplates that

BECKY SCARLATA PHOTOS





The 5-inch, stainless steel barrel is paired with a full-length recoil spring guide rod for optimum reliability.



The rear of the black rear sight is serrated to reduce glare.



The extended thumb safety and skeletonized hammer are black to contrast the stainless slide and frame.

not only protect the magazines if they're dropped on a hard surface but also allow for more positive reloads.

The skeletonized hammer not only looks attractive, but its lighter weight allows for a faster lock time, while the lightweight aluminum trigger can be adjusted for overtravel. The sharply checkered wooden grips improve handling and recoil control and should please the traditionalists among us who have an aversion to polymer pistol components. Lastly, and much to my liking, the slide stop lever has not been extended.

## WARHORSE WORKOUT

The 1911 GSS comes with just about every "bell and whistle" that today's serious shooters insist upon with their 1911 pistols—and right out of the box. There's no waiting for a gunsmith to customize the pistol the way you want it because it is set up that way already!

I ran the 1911 GSS through its paces

at my gun club on a brisk afternoon. The accuracy testing was performed from an MTM K-Zone rest at a measured 25 yards with four types of factory ammo and my match handload. As I had expected, the pistol performed best with 230-grain loads with honors going to Hornaday's +P Critical Duty load, which produced an impressive 1.6-inch group. The pistol tended to group a bit to the left, but as I had forgotten to bring my tool kit with the brass drift and hammer, I just had to live with the sights as they were.

During this stage of test firing, the 1911 GSS proved 100-percent reliable. In fact, the Federal 185-grain semi-wadcutter "softball" loads were digested effortlessly, which can't always be said about this loading in an out-of-the-box 1911.

Using a Safariland paddle holster, I ran the pistol through a series of off-hand drills from 5, 10 and 15 yards. The pistol handled beautifully (hey, it is a 1911 after all!), pointed naturally and,

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## DESERT EAGLE 1911 GSS



The 1911 GSS produced some very impressive groups at 25 yards.

Becky Scarlata Photo

### PERFORMANCE

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Black Hills 230 FMJ	832	2.80
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thanks to its weight, frame and grip checkering, recoil control was above average. Except for a pair of .45 rounds that mysteriously wandered out into the right-hand target's C-zone, all of the rounds ended up in the targets' A-zones and "heads."

### PERFORMANCE NOTES

While there was a white dot on the front sight, the rear was plain black. I prefer this arrangement since I tend to unconsciously devote too much time to lining up three-dot sights. With this setup I just look through the rear notch at the white dot and put it on the target. Fast, positive and accurate. If you're so inclined, you might consider upgrading to a fiber-optic front sight that would enhance sight alignment, target acquisition and transitioning between targets. The vast majority of action pistol shooters swear by them and increasing numbers of manufacturers now offer them as optional or standard equipment.

I was especially taken with the bea-

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The front sight features a simple white aiming dot.



vertail grip and extended thumb safeties. I shoot with a high thumb grip with said digit on top of the safety lever and on some 1911s I do not depress the grip safety sufficiently. I never once experienced this problem with the 1911 GSS, even when firing it with an unsupported (one-handed) grip.

A southpaw side note: An ambidextrous thumb safety would be a nice touch, especially so the lefties among us wouldn't have to go through the time and expense of installing one. Perhaps that will be an option down the road.

All in all, I feel the Desert Eagle 1911 GSS comes out of the box ready to handle just about any task one might set a 1911 pistol to, whether it be police/military service, home/personal defense or competitive shooting. In fact, I plan to use it next weekend to compete in the Single Stack division at a local USPSA match, and I believe that the Scarlata/Desert Eagle team will do quite well. For more information, call 508-635-4273 or visit [magnumresearch.com](http://magnumresearch.com). 

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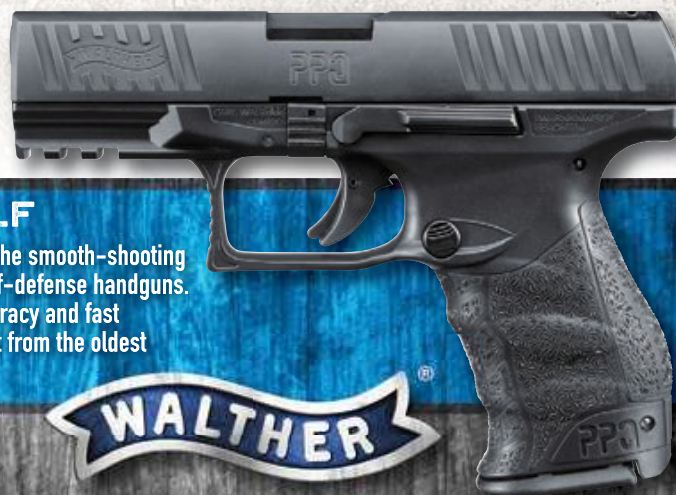
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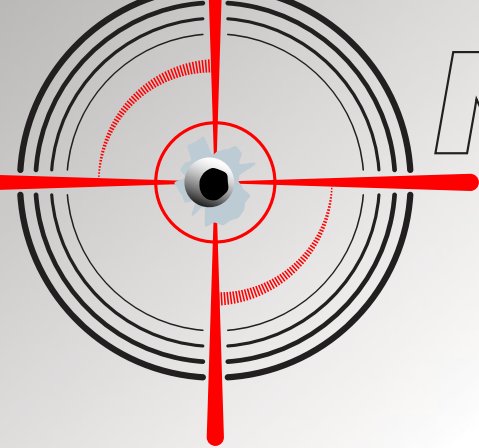
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## BlackHawk A.R.C. Holster

BlackHawk's new Appendix Reversible Carry (A.R.C.) inside-the-waistband holster is constructed of a soft, injection-molded polymer for all-day comfort. The fully reversible and ambidextrous design accommodates left- and right-handed users and is packaged with two cant and ride-height adjustment belt clips for 1.5- and 1.75-inch-wide belts. ([blackhawk.com](http://blackhawk.com); 800-379-1732)



## Comp-Tac XD Mod.2 Holsters

With the release of the XD Mod.2 from Springfield Armory, Comp-Tac has updated a number of its holsters to be compatible with the XD line, the XD<sup>M</sup> line and the new XD Mod.2 pistols. Comp-Tac's updated holsters are built for a variety of carry positions. Comp-Tac's updated holster designs include the MTAC, the Neutral Cant, the Spartan, the Infidel Max, the International and the CTAC. ([comp-tac.com](http://comp-tac.com); 866-441-9157)



## Crimson Trace LG-646 For Bersa Thunder CC

Crimson Trace now offers the LG-646 Lasergrips for Bersa's .380 ACP Thunder Concealed Carry pistol. Each Lasergrips module features Instinctive Activation and a master on/off switch, while the laser sights are easily adjustable for windage and elevation with a provided wrench. Exterior raised-dot texturing on each side of the unit duplicates the standard panels on the Thunder CC pistol. ([crimsontrace.com](http://crimsontrace.com); 800-442-2406)



## Dead Ringer Snake Eyes For Glocks

Now available for the Glock's subcompact G42 and G43, Dead Ringer's Snake Eyes sight design lends itself to the natural shooting position, all while allowing quick target acquisition. Even in low-light conditions, the tritium front and rear sights glow continuously. ([deadringerhunting.com](http://deadringerhunting.com); 855-355-4685)



## Q-Series Stealth

Featuring tough, injection-molded construction, the Q-Series Stealth holster is versatile and easily concealable by virtue of its low-profile, ambidextrous, tuckable design, which can be worn with or without a belt. The holster is available for numerous Glock models, including the G42 and G43, and variants of Smith & Wesson's M&P series. ([qseriesllc.com](http://qseriesllc.com))



## Recover Tactical HC11

The HC11 holster is designed to fit any standard-sized 1911 pistol that uses Recover's CC3H grip and rail system. It allows for a natural draw, comes with either passive or active retention, and is compatible with most rail-mounted pistol accessories, including lights and lasers. The holster can be set up for right- or left-handed draws and includes a paddle mount. It works exclusively with the company's updated CC3H grip and rail system. ([recovertactical.com](http://recovertactical.com))

## T-Sholster 360BBH

T-Sholster's new omnidirectional belly band, the 360BBH, offers concealed carriers the ability to use the same holster for inside-the-waistband (IWB), outside-the-waistband (OWB), cross-draw, small-of-the-back and even shoulder carry. This lightweight universal holster will fit most semi-auto pistols and small-frame revolvers. A snap thumb-break retention strap locks tightly with hook-and-loop fabric for added security. An integrated pouch also allows the user to carry three additional mags. ([tsholster.com](http://tsholster.com))



## UltiClip

A holster is only as concealable as its holster clip. Replace your holster clip with UltiClip's patent-pending design to gain over 10 times the retention while increasing concealability. Greater retention means your holster is more versatile and can be used in ways previously unimaginable. UltiClip was designed out of real-world necessity—it has no need for a belt or any other secondary means of support to provide its retention. ([ulticlip.com](http://ulticlip.com))



▶ WHAT PROS CARRY

I personally believe a 9mm built on a 7075-T6 aluminum frame will last as long as a .45 built on a steel frame. I’m basing this opinion on the lack of wear on my personal aluminum-framed 9mm 1911 and Beretta pistols, and the way Shok-Buff buffers last in 9mm pistols compared to .45s.

In the first issue of sister publication *Ballistic*, the staff did a survey of 19 well-known firearms experts, myself included, asking what our preferred self-defense caliber was. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of 9mm. Top trainers like B.J. Norris, Bill Rogers, David Bahde, Ernest Langdon, Frank Proctor, Ken Hackathorn, Larry Vickers, Mike Seeklander, Paul Buffoni, Paul Howe, Paul Markel and Super Dave Harrington all have gravitated to 9mm as their preferred caliber. The fact that old die-hard .45 ACP guys like Ken Hackathorn and Larry Vickers have gravitated to the 9mm tells us a lot.

🎯 MAKING THE MOVE

Based on a quick web search, I found 17 manufacturers listing 9mm 1911s: Colt, Dan Wesson, Ed Brown, Guncrafter, Kimber, Les Baer, Metro Arms, Nighthawk Custom, Remington, Republic Forge, Rock Island, Sig Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Springfield Armory, STI, Taurus and Wilson Combat. At Wilson Combat, we are seeing a substantial increase in orders for 1911s in 9mm and a substantial increase in 9mm magazine sales. I’m sure other companies in the 1911 market are seeing the same increase in demand.

Almost everyone I’ve turned on to 9mm 1911s has had the same reaction, “Wow! This pistol is easy to shoot,” and most of them now own one or more 1911s chambered in 9mm.

Don’t get me wrong, I still like my 1911 in .45 ACP as well as my Colt Pythons and always will, but due to the reasons listed above, I find myself shooting them less and less as time goes by. For me at least, a 9mm 1911 or a Beretta 92 in 9mm will pretty much do anything I need a self-defense or range handgun to do, and these days either a 1911 Ultralight Carry Compact 9mm or a Wilson Combat customized Beretta 92 compact is my daily carry pistol. Which one I carry is dictated by whichever platform I’m shooting the most at any given time. I carry every day, and as I write this, my Ultralight Carry Compact X-TAC 9mm is on my hip in a Lo-Profile II concealment holster. 📺

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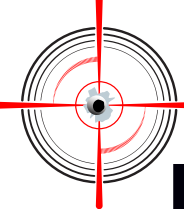
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# JEFF COOPER FROM THE HIP

Timeless excerpts from  
*Gunsite Gargantuan Gossip!*



**THROWING STONES:** As we have long known, a man's weapon is less important than the man. Up in Littleton, Colorado, recently some creep went on a rampage and started shooting people. Since no firearm was ready to hand, a local construction worker terminated the action cleanly with a rock. The article did not say what caliber the rock was.

**SLEEP SAFE:** In going back over some of the hunting adventures from the English colonial period I discovered the custom of sleeping with a pistol under one's pillow. This was presumably because field accommodations were pretty fragile and one had no security apart from himself ("So what else is new?"). This raises the interesting question of what sort of pistol is best kept under the pillow. Much, of course, will depend upon the character of the individual in such matters as to how deeply he sleeps and how quickly he awakes. I think a good choice might well be a heavy-caliber Peacemaker. It may not be the most efficient fighting tool around for one who is wide awake, but very little can go wrong with it, and a ready round of snake shot might prove to be just what is needed.

**CARRY HEAVY:** If you are ever fortunate to be in a position where it seems necessary to pack two guns, take care to always to pack the heavy. Let your companion or your assistant pack the light. If an emergency occurs, you do not want to be standing there with the rapier in your hand while the man carrying your battle-ax has suddenly departed.

**DOUBLE-TAP DOCTRINE:** Many years ago I instituted the doctrine of always placing two shots solidly in the center of the adversary's torso. This has become the rule throughout much of the world, and while it is not necessarily wrong, it ought not to be followed slavishly. In a gunfight the precise placement of a big bullet is what wins. That second shot is just for insurance. However, in

certain competitive circles the need for an almost instantaneous second shot has lead to the introduction of small calibers, long slides and light loads. This is not a good answer and course designers should take note.

**TARGET IN SIGHT:** I had always thought that the injunction not to shoot "until you can see the whites of their eyes" was properly attributed to Dr. Joseph Warren at Bunker Hill. Now I find

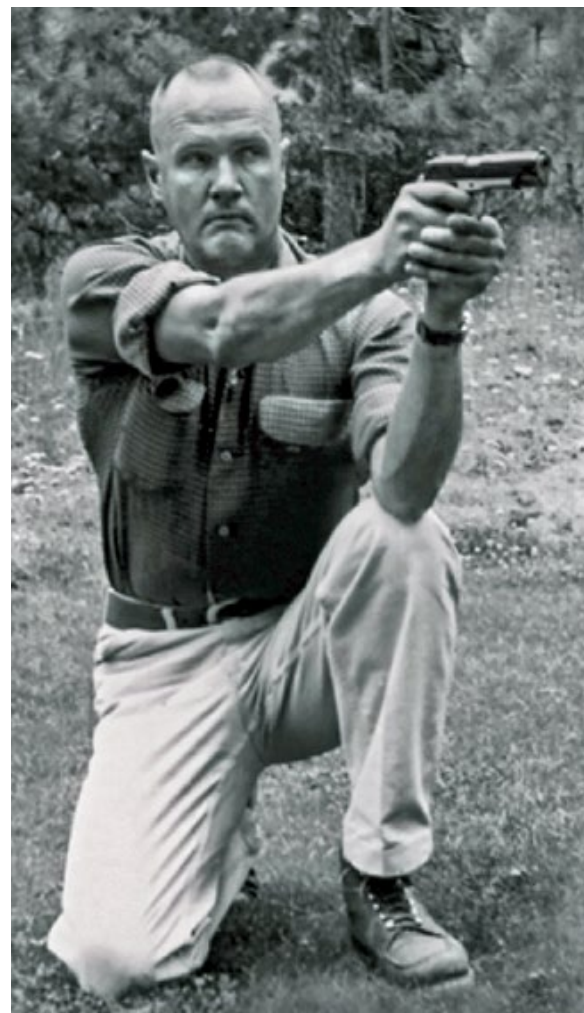
**"Experience is  
what you get when  
you don't get  
what you wanted."**

—ITALIAN PROVERB

that Frederick the Great was supposed to have used the same caution several generations earlier. Be that as it may, it does raise an interesting point. Just how far away can one see the whites of the eyes? Check that out yourself sometime. Just what is the range at which you can see the whites of someone's eyes?

**STOP THE THREAT:** We are somewhat amused by the hysteria manifest in the press at the suggestion by Gordon Liddy that if one is menaced by bad guys (particularly the ninja) one is wise to shoot for the head. That statement has got a whole bunch of journalists and commentators bleeding from the nose. One wonders why it should. Where else should you shoot a man if he is probably wearing an armored vest? If you decide to shoot you have made the big decision. Where you place your shot is merely a technical matter.

**FALLING SHORT:** Have you noticed all these pictures of people shooting from a putative kneeling position and not using the knee? One would assume that error would be obvious even to a person who



**Colonel Jeff Cooper was a big proponent of powerful double-taps, with the second shot serving as insurance to end a fight.**

had never thought about it, but we are living in an age where people will not do anything because it makes sense and will cross the street against the red light simply because they were never told not to.

**DEFINING HEROES:** "Heroism" is not the same as coping. A man who does his job properly and succeeds through his own efforts is definitely to be commended, but he is not a hero in the classic sense until he deliberately lays his life on the line for a cause he deems to be greater than himself.

**EVERYDAY THREATS:** When people tell you that personally owned firearms are a source of deadly danger you may point out that according to the National Safety Council about twice as many people die from medical malpractice as die from firearms accidents. Furthermore, there is no comparison to the risk from motor vehicles, falls, poisoning, drowning and simply choking to death on your food. **CH**

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